

FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDING REVIEW OFFICE (FHBRO)
HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

FHBRO Number:	91-40
DFRP Number:	06669
Resource Name:	South Magazine
Address:	St-Paul-de-l'Île-aux-noix, Fort Lennox, Québec
Construction:	1821, start of construction of a single magazine; 1822, design modified because of unstable soil (construction of two magazines); 1989-1990, stabilization and restoration
Original Function:	Artillery magazine and ordnance magazine
Current Function:	Same
Custodian:	Parks Canada
FHBRO Status:	Recognized Federal Heritage Building

Reasons for Designation

The South Magazine at Fort Lennox has been designated as a “Recognized” building primarily for its environmental significance and its architectural qualities.

Historical Value

The South Magazine is associated with the theme of the defence of Canada. Following the war of 1812-1814, British officers had to rethink their strategy in order to stop any enemy incursion via Lake Champlain and the Richelieu River. They decided to build a fort on Île-aux-noix rather than in St. Jean because that site offered definite advantages in the event of a naval attack. The South Magazine is a major component of Fort Lennox National Historic Site of Canada.

Architectural Value

The architectural value of this two-storey solid masonry building, of utterly military austerity, stems in large part from its functional and versatile design that made it possible to store various items and withstand sustained enemy attack. The choice of durable materials, such as Chazy limestone, renowned for its durability, and the decision to use proven building techniques illustrate the designers’ determination to meet the highest standards of the day. The quality of the consolidation and restoration in the 1990s respected the historic fabric.

Environmental value

The South Magazine, like its twin to the north with which it forms an indivisible whole both architecturally and functionally, contributes to the visual balance of the east side of the parade

ground, an area whose original layout emerged after a number of temporary structures were removed. These magazines are not mere warehouses; they illustrate all the logistics behind the military presence on the Richelieu River (administrative organization of the army, supply networks, storage methods, etc.).

Character-Defining Elements

- The architectural scheme of this two-storey building, which reflects the objectives of solidity specific to utilitarian military structures at that time. Specifically: the rectangular plan, the use of solid masonry walls (Chazy limestone, which is known for being easy to cut yet durable), the low-slope hip roof and minimum decoration, especially visible on the façades.
- Features related to the building's function as a warehouse, such as the entrances, the door on the second floor and its pulley system for hoisting bundled material, the versatility and bare character of the open interior spaces.
- The inward-flaring window embrasures and the bombproof vaulted ground floor, signs that the building was designed to resist a sustained attack.
- The relationship between the South Magazine and its twin, the North Magazine, two buildings that make up a visually and functionally indivisible complex.
- The clean and simple architectural treatment, including the regularity of the fenestration, elements consistent with the style evident in all the buildings located around the parade ground.
- The ruins of the foundations of the first planned building, which was never completed.

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

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