

Québec, Quebec

**Jebb's Reduit**

Building No. 27

The Citadel, Québec

Jebb's Reduit was constructed around 1851 from plans probably prepared by the Corps of Royal Engineers. Around 1855, a roof (no longer extant) was added to protect the building against water infiltration. The building was renovated in 1965 and 1970; it is currently used as storage space. Jebb's Réduit is located in the north ditch of the Citadel in the corner formed by the counterscarp it replaced. It is part of the Citadel of Québec, a National Historic Site. The building is owned by the Department of National Defence. See FHBRO Report 88-161.

**Reasons for Designation**

Jebb's Reduit has been designated "Classified" because of its historical significance, as well as its architectural and environmental character.

The building is directly associated with the defense of British North America during the period in which the Citadel was completed (1839-1857). Jebb's Reduit, a structure into which soldiers could retreat in the event of an attack, is the only building in the Citadel designed specifically for that purpose.

Jebb's Reduit is a massive, one-storey, polygonal building. The roof is flat, and the walls are extended on two sides to form an imposing parapet. The interior consists of a single large room that may have been used as a guardroom and to house troops; the vaulted ceiling made the building bomb-proof.

The setting of Building No. 27 has changed little over the years. The former reduit accentuates the military appearance of the site and adds to the variety of buildings located within the fortress in terms of function and appearance.

**Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of Jebb's Reduit resides in its shape, materials and elements which recall its dual function as a reduit and a defensive guardhouse. It also resides in its strategic location closely related to its defensive role.

Jebb's Réduit is a massive, squat, one-storey building, whose monumental staircase makes it particularly striking. The stairs gave soldiers easy access to the flat roof so that they could fire on the enemy. They were protected by the high parapet that rises on the two sides facing the glacis. The building follows the topography of the site and is constructed on a symmetrical, polygonal plan. It has its two original entrances, which include the flat roof accessible by the stairs, and the ground-level entry on the south elevation. This original design should be preserved in its entirety.

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The architectural character of Building No. 27 owes much to the southeast and southwest elevations, which feature five relieving arches. Four of the arches frame the three windows and the door, while the fifth frames a small window above the first flight of stairs. These semi-circular arches reflect the layout of the vaulted interior. The roof line is highlighted by a band course. The north elevations, which form a high parapet, are windowless. The walls of the reduit and the fan-shaped stairs, which split into two at the top, are made of cut limestone blocks in uneven courses. The flat roof is finished with flat stones, and a system of stone troughs ensures that rainwater is drained away.

It is recommended that an ongoing maintenance program be put in place to ensure the longevity of the various features of Jebb's Redit. It is especially important that the roof be sealed in order to preserve the integrity of the existing materials; however, the techniques used should not alter the original profile of the reduit. It is also recommended that all metal elements be protected from corrosion and that the iron railing on the roof be preserved. Replacement stones should be similar to the old ones in material, shape, texture and bond. Finally, the windows and doors should be repaired or replaced with elements identical to the old ones, in the interest of historical consistency.

The interior of the reduit comprises one large room, which is vaulted to make it bomb-proof, and a spiral staircase leading to the roof. The future development of the building should not jeopardize the integrity of the interior. The masonry walls should remain visible in order to preserve the rudimentary character that exists at present.

The heritage character of the reduit also resides in its relationship with the nearby buildings and defensive works. It is therefore important to preserve the battered earth floor. The introduction of plantings, outdoor furnishings and small service buildings that would make it harder to understand that relationship should also be limited.

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

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Translation