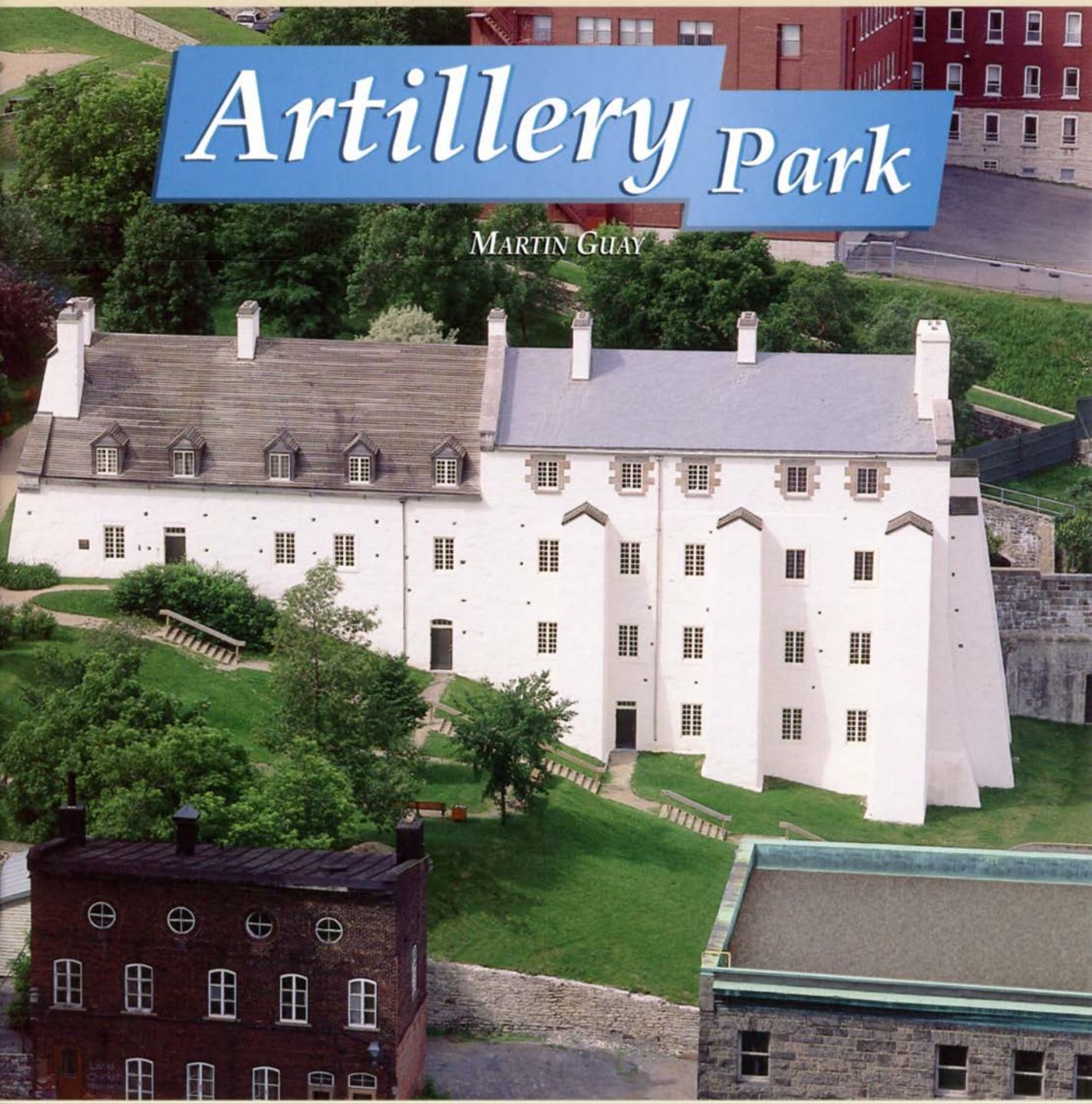
Artillery Park

MARTIN GUAY



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Artillery Park

MARTIN GUAY

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At the Heart of the Stronghold

The history of Québec is closely linked to the history of its defence system. Québec would not be the city it is today had it not been for the numerous military interventions that occurred. Parallel with the development of fortifications around Québec, Artillery Park was a key element in the city's defence. By the end of the 18th century, not only had the leaders of the colony started building thick walls for the city's defence, they had also ensured the presence of men capable of using these structures to their advantage.

Located in the northwest sector of Old Québec, Artillery Park is today a focal point of the city. It takes up the entire area along the fortifications between St. John Gate and Côte du Palais. The site evolved in keeping with tensions between Canada's two founding nations, but even more in response to the fluctuating fears of the city's residents. Artillery Park was one of the most important military quarters in Québec between 1749 and 1871, after which the site became a huge ammunitions factory employing as many as two thousand workers.

The name *Artillery Park* appeared long after the first defence lines set up by the French. It refers to the quarters occupied by the soldiers who stayed the longest–members of the Royal Artillery Regiment. The present-day national historic site of the same name includes installations from the St. John Bastion which, historically speaking, only became a part of the Park in 1903 when the ammunitions factory was expanded to include it.

Artillery Park bears witness to three important periods in Canadian history. The military authorities of New France were the Park's pioneers; they developed the first defence walls for Québec and set up the first soldiers' quarters. The British who came after diversified the use of the site and made it into true military quarters. Upon the departure of the British, the Canadian authorities in charge of starting up the cartridge factory had to demolish several structures but at least managed to safeguard the site as a whole and preserve it for posterity.

This brochure tells the history of Artillery Park through its builders, occupants and structures. Its story is obviously closely related to the activities of the National Historic Site, which provides a range of year-round reception and interpretation services. The brochure is divided into two parts: a chronological presentation of important events that have marked the history of the park and a more detailed description of the five structures that bear witness today to the site's historical residents. Let yourself be guided through the fascinating history of Artillery Park!

1690 to 1745

Defence of Québec:
Emergence of a Strategic Centre

From the moment Québec made the transition from a fur-trading post to a true French colonial town, priority was given to setting up a defence system worthy of its status. The first wall around the city was built in 1690, just a few days prior to an attack by English Admiral William Phips. It consisted of a wooden palisade that linked a dozen small stone redoubts, and that ran through the centre of Artillery Park. In 1998, remains were uncovered of one of the redoubts that were part of the city's defence installations. The Bourreau Redoubt, so-called because it was later used to house the city's *bourreau* (hangman), was located at the north-west end of the park.

The palisade obviously being only temporary, the authorities from New France sought to strengthen the city's defence and three years later authorized the construction of the first bastioned rampart. Designed by engineer Boisberthelot de Beaucours, the fortifications consisted of a thick mass of earth held in place by a wooden wall, and included two stonework installations – the Cap-aux-Diamants Redoubt and the Cavalier du Moulin. This line of defence extended as far as the Artillery Park area, near where the guard wall was to be built, today delimiting the Park's eastern boundary.

Plan by Boisberthelot de Beaucours, 1712. A, B and E represent the existing defence works. C and D locate the Royale and Dauphine Redoubts, which would complete the project.
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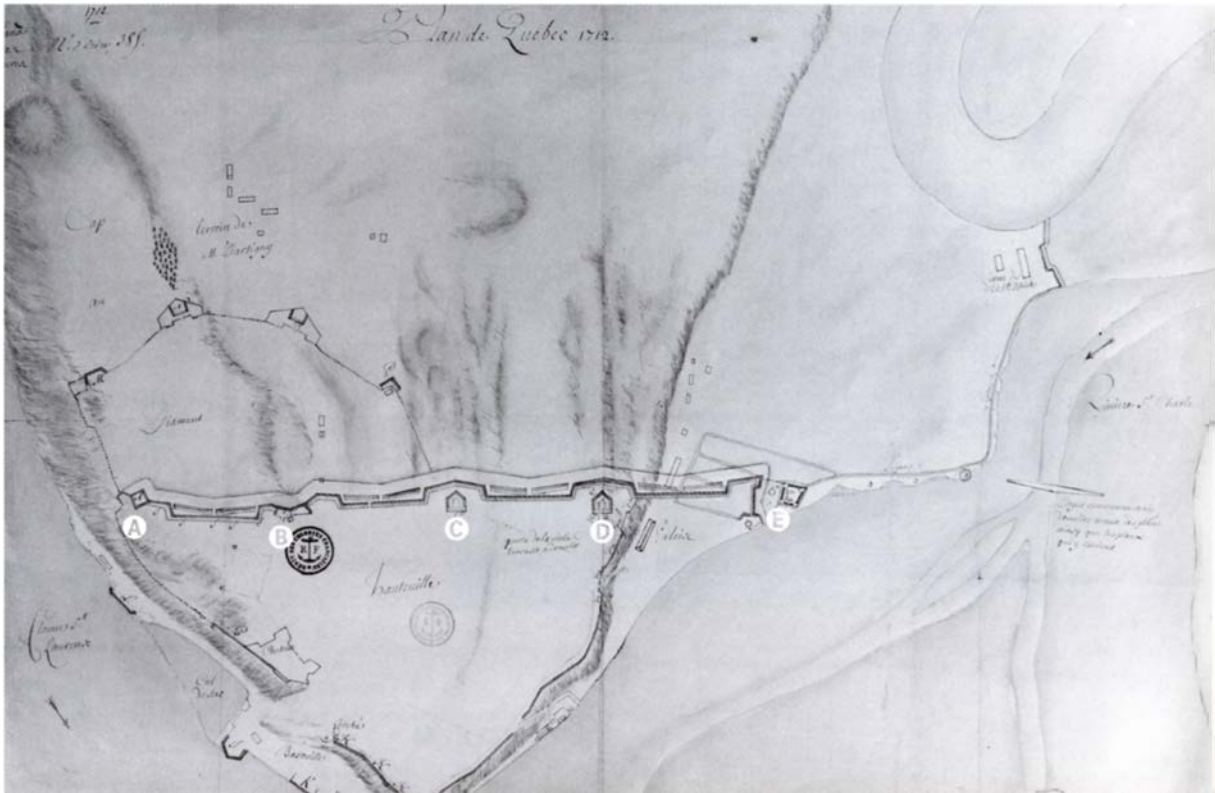
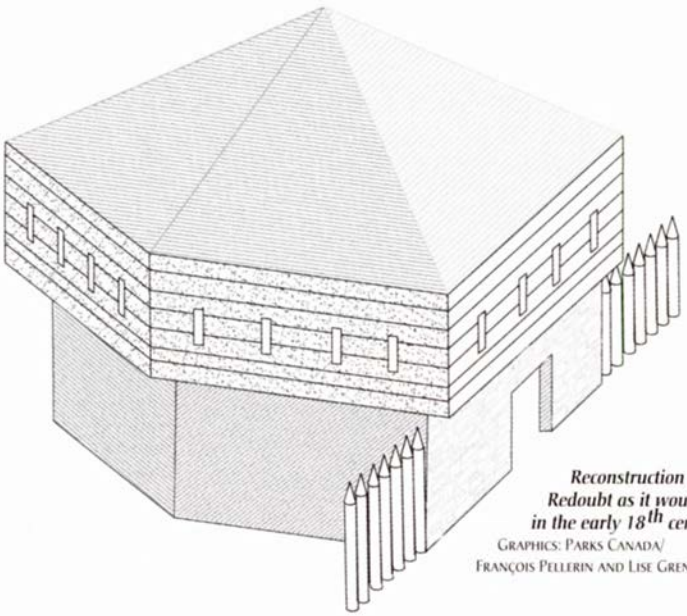




Reconstruction of the Bourreau Redoubt as it would have been in the early 18th century.
GRAPHICS: PARKS CANADA/
FRANÇOIS PELLERIN AND LISE GRENIER

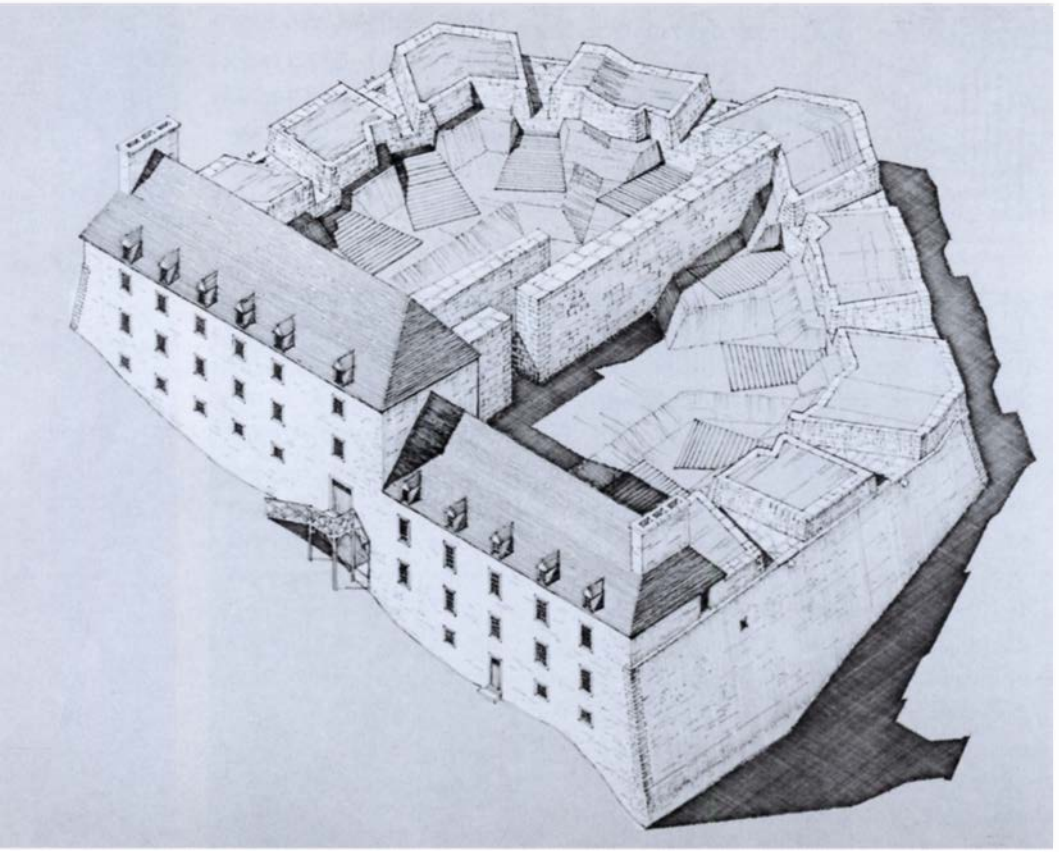
Part of the remains of the Bourreau Redoubt uncovered in autumn 1998
PHOTO: PARKS CANADA/JACQUES BEARDSELL

The numerous conflicts that marked the end of the 17th and beginning of the 18th centuries led the French to build even stronger fortifications made of stonework. However, due to internal strife among civil and military authorities, none of these projects were ever brought to realization. Time after time, Boisberthelot de Beaucours and the new head engineer, Levasseur de Neré, began construction of the ramparts and each time the plans included the strategic Artillery Park area. In 1710, de Beaucours was mandated by the colony's *Conseil des fortifications* to build a proper defence structure for the city. His project integrated several installations built for his 1693 wall and added two bastioned towers along the ground plan where the Cap-aux-Diamants and Saint-Nicolas redoubts and the Cavalier du Moulin were already located. These bastioned towers, made up of a thick earthwork protective wall and a building large enough to house munitions and men, would later become the Royale and Dauphine redoubts. After a number of adjustments, work began in 1712, but was interrupted the following year by the signing of the Treaty of Utrecht, which restored peace between France and England. The Royale Redoubt was near completion but the Dauphine Redoubt, only half-built, remained unusable. Québec was still not properly fortified.

It was not until 1745, when the British were threatening to sail up the St. Lawrence River towards Québec, that Artillery Park and the city saw the construction of new fortifications. Gaspard-Joseph Chaussegros de Léry, the new head engineer for the colony, oversaw the building of the wall that still encloses Old Québec on the west side. From then on, the rampart formed the western boundary of the Park and rendered the Dauphine Redoubt's protective wall almost useless.

Northwest part of the fortification by Chaussegros de Léry outlining the scope of the recently built barracks sector. 1752
NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA

After numerous attempts the city of Québec was finally properly fortified. The Artillery Park site, now well defined, would take on new importance at a time when its military vocation was to take shape.



Graphic reconstruction of the Dauphine Redoubt according to the Boisberthelot de Beaucours project (never completed) in 1712.
PARKS CANADA

First Barracks in the Heart of the Fortified City

During the French Regime, accommodation of the colony's soldiers posted at Québec was primarily dictated by policy implemented in the mother land. According to the Court, the local population had to provide lodging for the soldiers who were defending them. Except in areas where attacks were likely to occur (where the army often had a citadel that could house its troops) the peasants in France, and subsequently those in New France, had to house the soldiers. The Intendant was in charge of ensuring that the sharing of accommodations between the soldiers and the locals went according to rules determined by the King's officers.

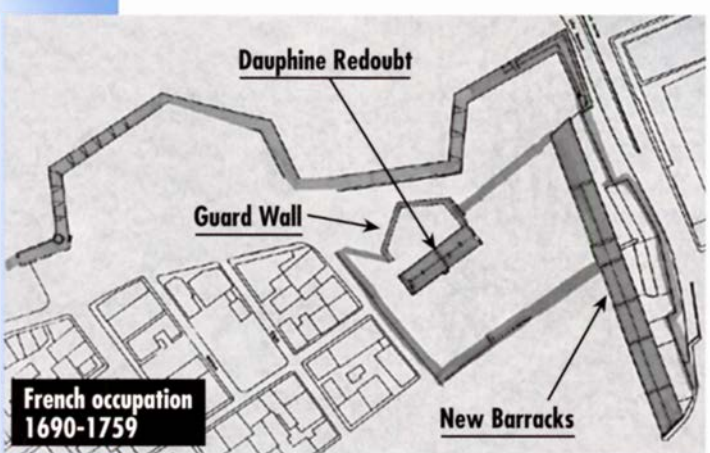


ILLUSTRATION: RÉMY DESLAURIERS, *GRAPHART*

Soldier from the* Troupes franches de la marine *around 1755
ILLUSTRATION: PARKS CANADA/EUGÈNE LELIÈPVRE

Upon arriving in Québec, each soldier would receive a billet, naming the peasant family with which he was to live. The system was a form of taxation for the population, which was obliged to lodge the soldiers who had come to protect them. Every colonist had to supply a bed, chamber pot, candles and a "place around the fire". The clergy, members of the bourgeoisie, public officials and several other groups were exempted from this requirement because of their social status. In 1689, the soldiers started receiving food rations, which they usually turned over to the mistress of the house to add to her provisions. The young soldiers shared their meals with the family and took part in peasant social life. Indeed, they were more inclined to attend the villagers' recreational activities than to turn up for their military duties and exercises. They could also work for their hosts, thus supplementing their meagre salary.

Soldiers of the Artois Regiment (regular troops) shown flirting with a peasant girl.
ILLUSTRATION: PARKS CANADA/ EUGÈNE LELIÉPVRE

The officers and troop leaders were not happy with the situation, which led to a great lack of discipline and a number of offences. As early as 1713, they therefore proposed that the soldiers be housed together in buildings belonging to the King in order to maintain a better control over them. It took another 35 years for the barracks to be built because the Crown refused to pay for the upkeep of the buildings and most of the colonists still preferred the inconvenience of the billet system to paying a tax to house the soldiers in barracks.

The situation changed when an English attack became imminent in 1745. The authorities then succeeded in imposing a tax to pay for the construction of fortifications and barracks. Chaussegros de Léry, the same engineer who had designed the fortification wall, modified the plans for the Dauphine Redoubt in order to complete construction and to use it to store weapons and gunpowder. However, the increase in military strength in 1749 forced Governor La Jonquière and Intendant Bigot to use both the Dauphine and Royale redoubts as men's quarters. Construction of an additional building was also begun between the Dauphine Redoubt and the wall running along the escarpment facing the Palais de l'Intendant to lodge additional soldiers and serve as a

warehouse. This was known as the "New Barracks". By the end of the French Regime, a hundred or so soldiers were housed in the Dauphine Redoubt and an equal number in the New Barracks.

These servicemen belonged to the *Troupes franches de la marine*, infantry companies in charge of protecting the French colonies, and regular troops sent over after 1755. The soldiers, who were recruited in the large coastal cities of France, enrolled mainly to escape difficult economic conditions. The recruiting officers lured them with promises of a steady salary, clothing, and room and board provided by the army, in addition to a tempting bonus when they signed their contract, which lasted six years! Most of these young men, often under the age of twenty, were only able to mark an "X" for their signature...

Once housed in the barracks, the soldiers lived several in a room, sometimes with women and children, lost much of the freedom they enjoyed under the billet system and had to make do with the ration of bread, peas and salted lard supplied by the army. In the summer they tried to supplement their diet by hunting and gathering berries but did not come close to providing the variety of food they had enjoyed when living with local families. Barracking did, however, make it easier for the military authorities to control and discipline the men. The soldiers were supervised and available for exercises and duties. Barracking also contributed to developing a true *esprit de corps* among the troops.

In spite of the existence of barracks, soldiers continued to be billeted with colonists for some time yet, especially during periods of fighting when their numbers increased. But at least Québec now had an actual barracks area surrounded by a guard wall and away from the local population. The capital of New France had become a garrison town and it vibrated to the sounds of drums and military parades. The economy of Québec adapted to the situation and various businesses, such as bars, inns and cabarets, popped up to serve the soldiers. The interaction between the military and the local population would continue to evolve, with some adjustments, under British occupation.

A soldier's barrack room as seen at the Dauphine Redoubt and the New Barracks during the French Regime.
ILLUSTRATION: PARKS CANADA/FRANCIS BACK

Under British Rule:
Expansion and Diversification

After the Battle of the Plains of Abraham, the British military authorities requisitioned all the buildings belonging to the French army to accommodate their troops. This was unusual for the British at the time, because in England they only started using barracks thirty years later. Soldiers were generally housed in residential inns, stables, and roadhouses. However, in Canada their status as conquerors forced the British to adopt new habits. The Dauphine Barracks and the New Barracks were thus used to house infantry regiments, which were joined in 1765 by the Royal Artillery Regiment. Twenty years later, the space was almost totally occupied by the artillery and so the name *Artillery Park* was adopted and is still used today.

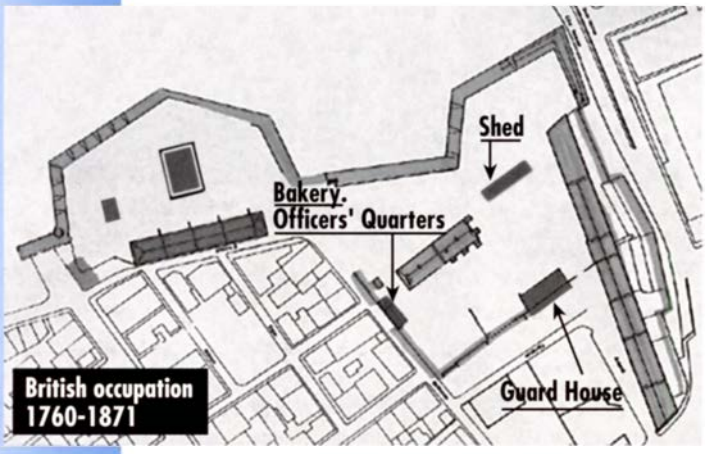


ILLUSTRATION: RÉMY DESLAURIERS, *GRAPHART*

In 1775, during the American War of Independence, an attack by an American rebel force led by Generals Benedict Arnold and Montgomery forced the British to consolidate their defences at Québec. In the following decades they extended the wall of the fortification around the town and built a citadel; the town became a veritable stronghold and now had to accommodate a garrison capable of its defence. This period marks the extension of the Artillery Park when buildings inherited from the French were modified and repaired. Around 1785, a bakery was added near the Dauphine Barracks. In 1817, a shed was built between the New Barracks and the Dauphine Redoubt, near the still used parade ground which would also serve as a stable.

During this period, the New Barracks served various military groups. There were soldiers' quarters, various warehouses and offices of the Artillery and Military Engineers known as the Board of Ordnance, the guard house for the Palace Gate (which was moved to the other side of the Côte du Palais at the end of the 18th century), the shops for the blacksmith, the cooper, the carpenter and the armourer, and the prison quarters.

It was also around this time, in 1784 or 1785, that the Dauphine Barracks were turned into the Officers' Mess for the Royal Engineers & Royal Artillery. Members would pay annual dues and come here to wine and dine and spend their evenings. The Mess was on the third floor of the building, which had more light. There was a large, well-appointed dining room and anteroom as well as a kitchen, considered modern for the times, where subordinate personnel would work away concocting impressive meals for the officers using provisions from a well-stocked pantry and wine cellar.

Snow shovelling fatigue in the parade ground in 1829. In the centre back, the Dauphine Redoubt, to the right, the shed and stables.
ILLUSTRATION: J.P. COCKBURN, NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA (C-40-001)

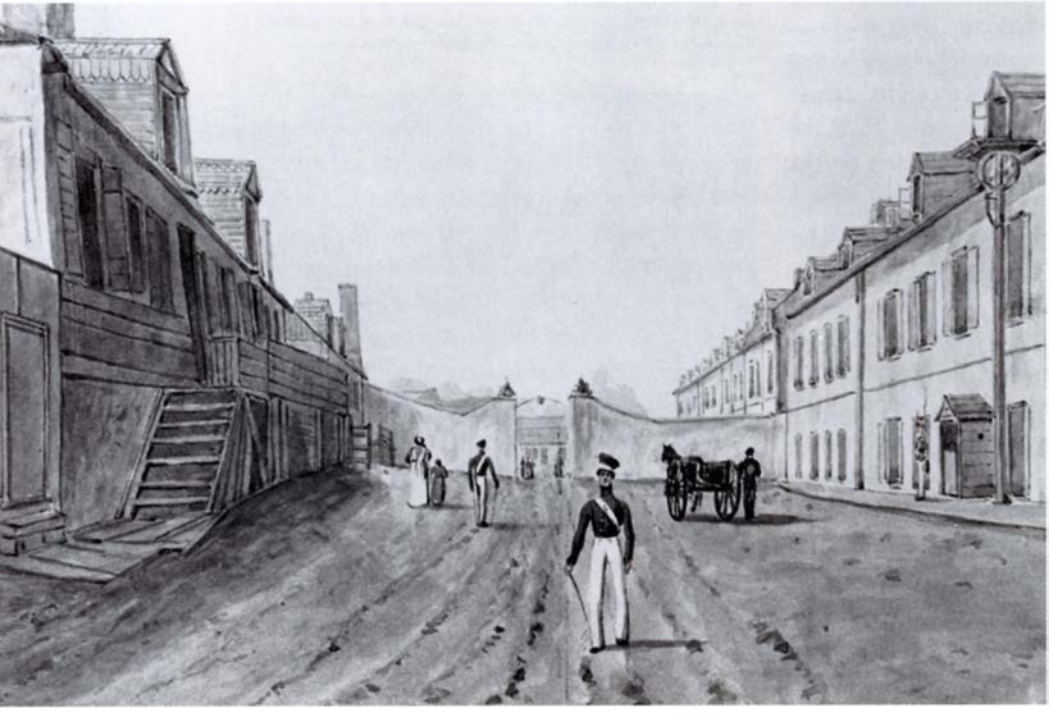
Since 1760, the officers had been living in private houses off the grounds. The regulations stipulated that the number of rooms made available to officers would increase with their rank. Between 1815 and 1820, the authorities decided to set up officers' quarters on site because the price of housing had increased considerably in the town. The bakery was converted into quarters for a captain and his family and the Dauphine Redoubt was used for other officers. The west side of the New Barracks was converted into a huge residence for the commander of the Royal Artillery. The sudden influx of all these officers considerably changed the life style at the Artillery Park. Leisure-time activities took on a new importance. Huge gardens were planted around the Dauphine Redoubt. These gardens bore witness to the privileges granted to the higher ranks and provided the vegetables and herbs used in their meals. The common soldier was not faring too badly either by this time. There were now kitchens outside their rooms, hygiene had improved and there were fewer men per room.

The members of the Royal Artillery were the primary occupants of the Park during British Rule and were considered the elite of the British Army. Only the tallest and the healthiest recruits were admitted into the regiment. They were responsible for cannon manoeuvres and provided support for the infantry. They were also the ballistics experts and received more elaborate training than the infantrymen. They had to learn about the distance and angle of fire, safety around gunpowder, combat strategy and heavy artillery manoeuvres. The artillery was also responsible for the town's powder magazine and the warehouses for the gun carriages.

Officer and soldier from the Royal Artillery Regiment in 1840
ILLUSTRATION: R.J. MACDONALD IN *THE HISTORY OF THE DRESS OF THE ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY, 1625-1897*

From the time they arrived at Artillery Park, the British had always found ways to adapt the site inherited from their predecessors to their own needs. Besides repairing and renovating the buildings and re-appointing the barracks and warehouses, they also diversified their military activities. Now with a greater number of officers on the site and considering all the events that were to happen over the second half of their stay, the British truly contributed to the "Golden Age" of Artillery Park.

When the Royal Artillery left the country in 1871, it left behind more buildings than the recently created Canadian Army was ever going to need. Indeed, the Artillery Barracks were virtually abandoned for some years, only to be given a new vocation compatible with the military activities of the town of Québec in light of the upheaval brought on by the Industrial Revolution.



New Barracks (to the right) and entrance to Artillery Park in 1831.
ILLUSTRATION: J.P. COCKBURN, *MUSÉE DE LA CIVILISATION. DÉPÔT DU SÉMINAIRE DE QUÉBEC.*

Industrial Upswing: Dominion Arsenal

Among the legacies left the Canadian Army by its British predecessors were its first guns. When the British Army left, they adopted a new type of gun and cartridge. The Canadians were left with the older model but were unable to procure ammunitions because British arsenals were now only manufacturing the new cartridges. The Canadian military authorities therefore had to find a place to set up a cartridge factory in Canada. Québec was a logical choice because of its fortifications, its distance from the United States, its available manpower and especially because it had readily available facilities for the factory. The cartridge factory in Québec was set up in the New Barracks and began production in September 1882 with 37 employees, 15 of which were women. Because the building was so long, there was room enough for the whole production process, starting with the steam engine and then the smaller machines that produced the cartridge cases and the bullets. The dangerous process of filling the cartridges and the final assembly were done out on the Plains of Abraham in the Cove Fields, far from any inhabited areas.

At the beginning, the Arsenal manufactured cartridges for the guns inherited from the British. Up to 1891, the factory turned out approximately one and a half million Snider cartridges a year. Then in 1895, after a few fruitless efforts, it started making cartridges of .303-inch in diameter. Although this entailed a more complex process, this type of cartridge was to become the specialty of the factory. The cartridge factory (renamed the Federal Arsenal in 1901) soon had to adapt its buildings and construct new ones to meet the ever-growing demand. It was to reach its peak during the two World Wars. By 1887, the factory was no longer only manufacturing cartridges. At this time it started producing shells. These projectiles, being much larger than cartridges, also cost more to produce. But the costs were more than justified by their excellent quality, coupled with growing demand, and so production was increased.

The rearmament period that coincided with the end of the Great Depression of the 1930s and the beginning of World War II brought on important changes at the Arsenal. The new electric motors made the machines more autonomous and versatile. As demand increased, the facilities at Côte du Palais soon became inadequate. The company had two new shops built, one at Valcartier, north of Québec and another near the working-class district of St. Malo in the Lower Town. By 1964, demand having considerably decreased, the shops at Artillery Park were closed and the Arsenal conducted activities solely out of Valcartier.

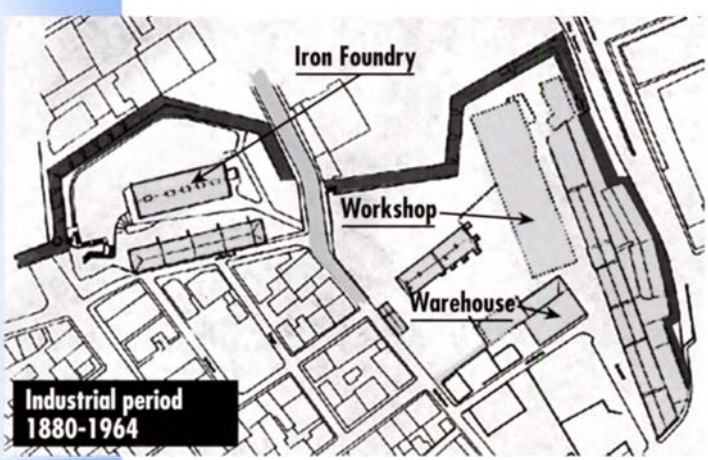
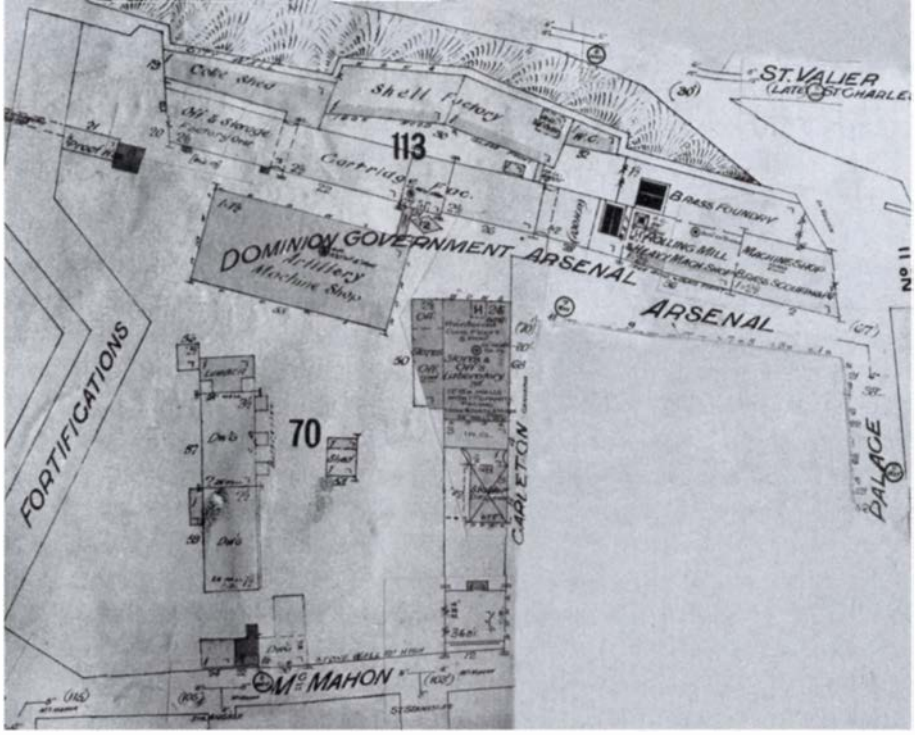


ILLUSTRATION: RÉMY DESLAURIERS, *GRAPHART*



Plan of the north section of the park in 1910. Made for insurance companies, it shows the almost total occupation of the New Barracks' yard and the new Artillery Machine Shop where the parade ground used to be.
ILLUSTRATION: CHARLES E. GOAD IN *INSURANCE PLAN OF THE CITY OF QUEBEC*, VOL. 1. NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA

Workers exiting the Arsenal in 1941. The walkway links the New Barracks to the shop built in the old parade ground.
PHOTO: A. PAQUETTE, QUÉBEC.

During all this time the Dauphine Redoubt served as the residence for the superintendent of the factory. From Oscar Prévost (1880-1895) to Antonin Thériault (1936-1958), five superintendents and their families occupied the 3rd and 4th floors. Foreman François Hallé and his family lived on the second floor for nearly 40 years. As for the workers, and there were up to two thousand of them between 1943 and 1945, they lived in the first multifamily housing units to be built in the outskirts of Québec.

Most of the workers at the Arsenal were paid on a piecework basis, i.e. according to how much they produced. During period of conscription, a number of children joined the women, who made up most of the work force. While women were paid only half a man's pay, children got only one-quarter; some were as young as twelve years of age. But at the time it was considered acceptable because it was part of the war effort. Most of the workers were apparently happy with their work. After all, they had a dependable employer, camaraderie with their colleagues, and they were proud of the quality of the goods produced.

Workers and foremen at the filling shop (Cove Fields) in 1902. In the upper right one can see the crankshaft that conducts movement to the machines.
PHOTO: NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA (PA 99 858).

At any given time, about 50% of the workers were women and they were particularly appreciated for their manual dexterity and sharp eye, two qualities needed to perform the visual inspections of the cartridges and shells.

The last period of activity at Artillery Park perpetuated the military tradition of the site even though civilians working for the military cause carried out the work. Eighty years of industrial production had brought about considerable change to the site. Today this period is considered an integral part of the evolution of the Artillery Park and just as important as its earlier vocations as barracks for the French and later the British.

View from one of the filling and assembly shops (Cove Fields) on the Plains of Abraham in 1899. In the background, the Parliament Building.
PHOTO: NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA

St. John Bastion:
Role in the Defence and Integration into the Arsenal Complex

The section of the fortifications that is today located between St. John Gate and the opening in the wall off McMahon Street is known as St. John Bastion and was used by the military as early as the beginning of the 19th century. However, it primarily served as a component of the town's defence system rather than as part of the Artillery Park.

In 1806, the British built a powder magazine on the site to supply the northwest sector of the fortifications. Since gunpowder was used for all arms, it was essential for the protection of the town, despite its highly explosive nature. The St. John powder magazine could hold 500 barrels, each containing 100 pounds of powder. It had a special room for preparing the charges and was surrounded by a protective wall.

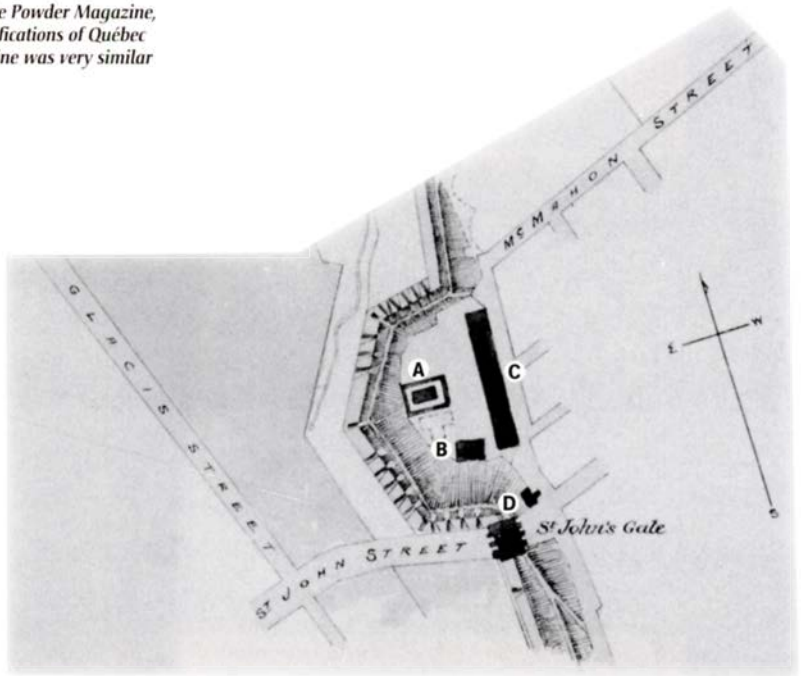
In 1815, the British added a warehouse for their gun carriages just across from the powder magazine. The building was built like a staircase to follow the slope of the hill. Here they stored the various wooden and iron carriages for their artillery. In times of peace the cannons were set on iron carriages, which could stand up to weather conditions. In wartime the cannons located within the fortified enclosure as well as those found in the town's various batteries were transferred onto oak carriages that were lighter and easier to manœuvre, but not as robust. These oak carriages therefore spent most of their time in huge hangars such as the one at St. John Bastion.

In conjunction with the activities at the powder magazine, a laboratory was installed in the Bastion in 1839. It was located near the interior slope of the wall of the fortifications. The gunners had the job of manufacturing the gunpowder and preparing the charges. In 1864, the lab blew up and killed eleven people. That put an end to the handling of gunpowder near barracks.

The St. John Bastion area was finally made part of the Arsenal in 1903 when the powder magazine was demolished to make way for a huge iron foundry needed to manufacture artillery shells. It was a red brick building that today serves as a visitors' centre for the historic site. It was used as an iron foundry for only eleven years. When World War II broke out, it was transformed into a factory for manufacturing detonators for artillery shells. The design of the building included a mezzanine that opened up an additional floor without losing the natural light provided by the large windows. These windows, as well as the skylights in the roof, are typical of industrial architecture of the time, which tries to maximize on daylight.

From that time on, despite McMahon / Richelieu Street that cuts off the oldest part of the park, the St. John Bastion area was to remain an integral part of Artillery Park.

Reproduction of the inside of the Esplanade Powder Magazine, located near the St. Louis Gate, at the Fortifications of Québec Interpretation Centre. This powder magazine was very similar to that of St. John Bastion.
PHOTO: PARKS CANADA/ÉRIC BLAIS



Plan of the buildings in St. John Bastion, second half of the 19th century. The powder magazine and its guard wall A, the laboratory B and the gun carriage warehouse C. The St. John Gate and its guard house D can also be seen.
ILLUSTRATION: NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA

Dauphine Redoubt

1710 First plans, construction is delayed due to the threat of an attack by the British (Walker).

1712 Alterations are made to plans and construction begins.

1713 Work stops because of a peace treaty (Utrecht). The building is only half built and is almost deserted.

1745 Building of the fortification wall running in front of the redoubt.

1748 Chaussegros de Léry's plans for the completion of the building and for converting it into a warehouse and powder reserve. The main changes made by de Léry include the levelling of the roof, the widening of the upper floors on the west side and the building of vaults on the first three levels to divide off the building. Abandoning of the protective wall.

1749 Setting up of soldiers' barrack rooms to meet the additional spatial requirements caused by the increase in military manpower. The first three floors are occupied by the *Troupes franches de la marine*. No windows on the fourth floor.

1753 Building of the guard wall around the park which includes part of the redoubt's protective wall.

1755 Roof catches fire. Repair without any change.

1759 Arrival of the British military. Barracking of the infantrymen followed by the artillery.

1767 First renovations by the British: new roof and alterations to the fourth floor by building dormer windows and installing heating. Addition of two chimneys.

1770 Building of five buttresses. The first two are designed to compensate for the steep slope on which the redoubt was built and which exerts enormous pressure on the north wall. The three buttresses located on the east side are designed to stabilize the pressure exerted by the embankment, which is much higher on the west, the side of the protective wall.

1772 Dismantling of the two chimneys built in 1767 because they caused a vault on the first floor to collapse.

1783 Temporary installation of the Board of Ordnance. Offices for the artillery and military engineers, warehouses and tailor workshops.

1784-1785 Setting up of the Officers' Mess for the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers regiments. Besides the dining room, its anteroom, the kitchen, the pantry and the wine cellar, note the addition of gardens around the redoubt.

1811 Four officers live on the fourth floor.

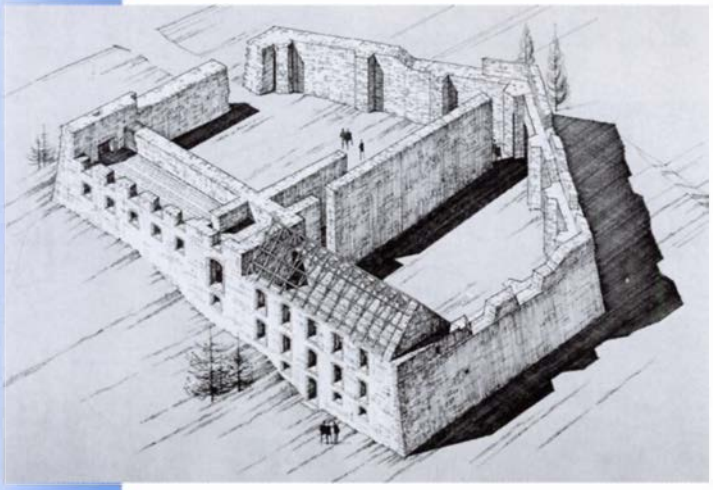
1818 Demolition of the remains of the protective wall; landscaping of a new garden in this sector.

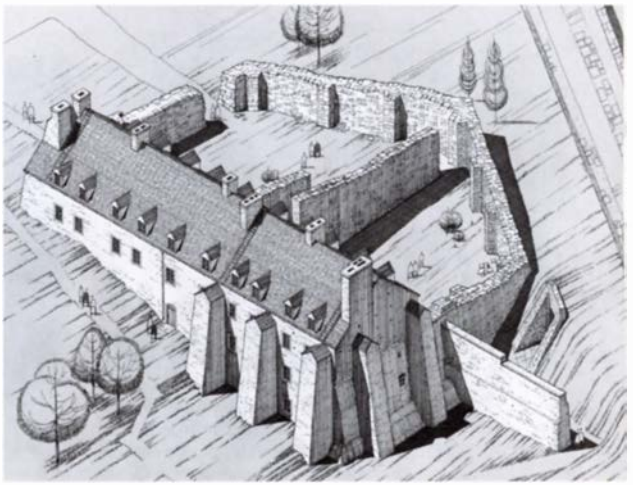
1819 Fire destroys part of the roof. Rebuilding.

1820 Setting up of a new tailor workshop for the Royal Artillery, a classroom and a canteen.

1841 Inventory of military strength: 14 soldiers and non-commissioned officers live in the redoubt, probably in the reconverted barrack room on the first floor. They stay there until 1871.

Graphic reconstruction of the Dauphine Redoubt. Left, the degree of advancement of the work following the stoppage in 1713. Below, the end of construction and the furnishing of the barrack. On page 19, the Officers' Quarters during the British Regime.
ILLUSTRATIONS: PARKS CANADA





Artillery Park in 1831. Notice the uniformity of the Dauphine Redoubt's roof before the fire in 1854. The goats seen on the interior slope of the wall of the fortifications were a common occurrence; by grazing on the grass, they ensured its upkeep.
ILLUSTRATION: J.P. COCKBURN, *MUSÉE DE LA CIVILISATION, DÉPÔT DU SÉMINAIRE DE QUÉBEC*

1854 September 20. Major fire destroys the north section of the 3rd and 4th floors. The fire starts in Lieutenant Adam's bedroom. If a large reserve of water had not been available nearby, the building would have burned down completely.

1855 Rebuilding and modifying of the roof. The lateral walls of the north section are raised a few metres in order to create more space on the attic floor, changing the angle of the roof in this section. These alterations are still visible today.

1865 Building of the billiard room annexed to the Mess, west side.

1871 Departure of the British garrison from Québec. The buildings are more or less deserted.

1875 The *Young Women's Christian Association* (YWCA) is housed in the redoubt until 1880.

1880 Residence of the Arsenal's first superintendent, Oscar Prévost, and his family (north section of the 3rd and 4th floors).

1884 The second floor houses foreman François Hallé and his family until 1922.

1895 Frédéric-Mondelet Gaudet, the Arsenal's second superintendent, replaces Oscar Prévost.

1896 Demolition of the billiard room.

1913 Francis D. Lafferty replaces Colonel Gaudet at the head of the Arsenal.

1920 New superintendent: Henry Robert Visart, Earl of Bury and of Bocarmé.

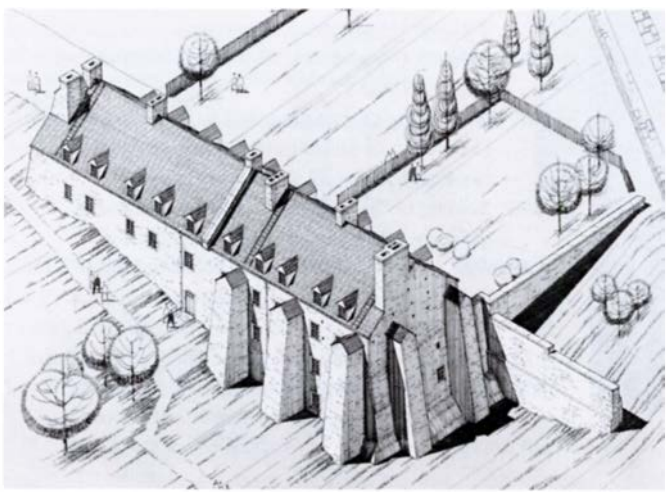
1936 Last superintendent of the Arsenal at Artillery Park: Antonin Thériault.

1950 Building of a two-storey veranda where the Mess' billiard room once was.

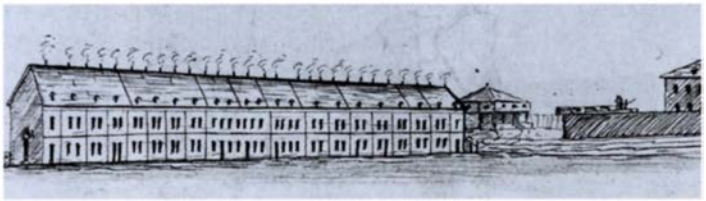
1958 End of the occupation following the death of superintendent Thériault.

1981-1983 End of the building's restoration, furnishing and opening to the public.

One of the most attractive renditions of the Dauphine Redoubt. The contrast created by new stone used to raise the wall of the fourth floor following the fire in 1854 is evident.
ILLUSTRATION: H. BUNNETT, 1886, MCCORD MUSEUM OF CANADIAN HISTORY



Following restoration work in the 1970s, the Dauphine Redoubt in all its splendour.
PHOTO: PARKS CANADA



Sketch of the New Barracks in 1805. Notice the dormer windows added in the 1790s and the guard house for the Palace Gate (at the end to the right), recently erected outside the building.
ILLUSTRATION: S. STRETTON, NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA.

NEW BARRACKS

1712 Building of a low wall to close off the rear yard.

1745 Building of a fortification wall, one section of which will become the north wall of the New Barracks. This wall has openings so that soldiers can shoot towards the *Palais de l'Intendant* and the Saint-Charles River.

1749 Building of the barracks starts following Chaussegros de Léry's plans. Over 160 metres long, this neo-classical building has 4 floors, the first 2 of which are vaulted. It is intended to serve as a lodging for troops, a warehouse and a weapons room as well as for the Palace Gate's guard corps.

1752 Construction ends. Soldiers from the *Troupes franches de la marine* move in.

1755 November. Roof fire and repairs. Arrival of the regular troops; increase in the number of occupants.

1763-1765 First renovation work by the British. The Royal Artillery gradually replaces the infantry regiments.

1770-1772 Work done on the doors, windows, roof and building structure. The Board of Ordnance moves in. First building in the yard serves as a shelter for the gun carriages.

1778 A report by the British garrison points out that the building houses 368 soldiers.

The New Barracks as they appeared on the Duberger and By scale model dating from 1808.
PHOTO: PARKS CANADA

1799-1804 Raising of the low wall running behind the building. This construction work makes it impossible to shoot from the barracks top floor.

1816 Fire destroys the east section of the building. Rebuilding and refurnishing. The west section becomes the residence for the commanding officer of the Royal Artillery. The central part serves as a barrack and the east section houses the Board of Ordnance.

1816-1823 New buildings in the rear yard: kitchen, latrines and a workshop for the carpenters, coopers, armourers and blacksmiths in the service of the artillery.

1820 93 soldiers and non-commissioned officers are barracked in the building. The vaulted cellars store 1500 barrels of pork and rum.

1851 The New Barracks have become an important weapons warehouse, the records show that there are enough guns to supply 20,000 men.
In December, a major fire destroys the entire building except for the west end. The fire starts in one of the Royal Artillery soldiers' dormitories. Attempts are made to extinguish it by exploding sections of the building.

1852 Partial rebuilding. A central section is not rebuilt but rather becomes a yard for the Board of Ordnance.

1858-1863 Setting up of classrooms for the increasing number of soldiers' families on the site.

1871-1880 Deserted, as was the entire park, the building temporarily houses some families forced by fire to leave their homes.

1880 The central part of the New Barracks is equipped with the Cartridge Factory's first machines.

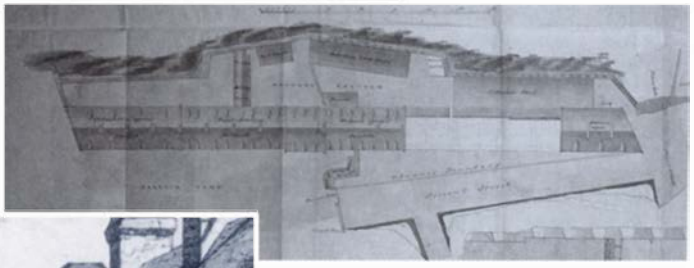
1882 Production begins. Several wooden floors are replaced using new bricks.

1887-1898 Many changes required to increase production. Occupation of buildings in the rear yard: shell factory, first foundry and coal shed.

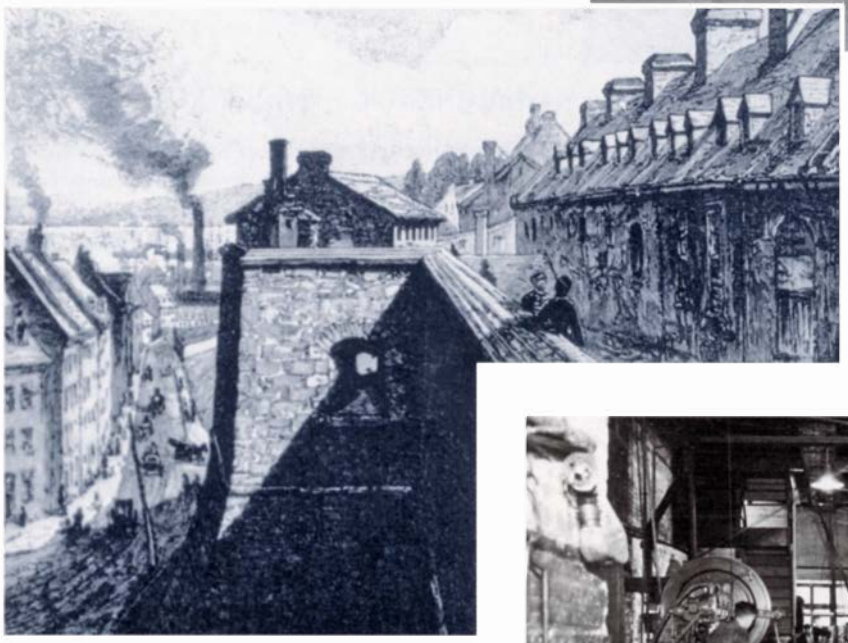
1898 Building of the boiler room or Power House in part of the space left empty following the fire of 1851.

1900-1902 Building of the rolling mill (building which houses the precision machine used to thin out the metal ingots) in the free space between the Power House and the east end of the New Barracks. This addition gives the building back its physical unity, even though the architecture of the new sections is very different.

Inventory of the New Barracks fire in 1851. It is interesting to note the destruction of the façade in two places caused by the explosions used to stop the spread of flames.
ILLUSTRATION: *PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE*, LONDON, W.O.



Plan from 1852 showing the section that was not rebuilt following the major fire the year before.
ILLUSTRATION: *PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE*, LONDON, W.O.



The rear yard of the New Barracks in 1882 and, at the foot of the wall, Saint-Vallier Street. The cartridge factory would increasingly occupy this space which already housed a workshop (in the centre).
ILLUSTRATION: L.R. O'BRIEN, IN *ARTISTIC CANADA DESCRIBED BY PEN AND PENCIL*

The rolling mill of the Arsenal in 1941. In the background, one can see the ingot bars, and in the foreground to the right, the slats obtained after thinning.
PHOTO: PHOTO MODERNE ENR.

1903-1964 The Arsenal uses the entire building. The machinery remains on the first floor, the attic is turned into inspection workshops.

1964-1995 Following the closing of the Arsenal, the building temporarily houses a few families in need, but quickly becomes the parking lot for Hôtel-Dieu, a hospital nearby to which the Ministry of Defence had transferred the building.

1996 Parks Canada begins archaeological excavations and the restoration of the fortification wall in the yard and to the west of the New Barracks in order to extend the pedestrian circuit for the fortifications of Québec.

The Officers' Quarters following restoration.
PHOTO: PARKS CANADA/ XAVIER BONACORSI

OFFICERS' QUARTERS

1785 First time the building appears on the plan. It serves as a garrison bakery for the Royal Artillery.

1818 Converted into an officer's (captain) family residence.

1819-1871 Occupied by different artillery captains' families. Setting up of a few outbuildings: latrines and stables.

1877 After being deserted for a few years, the house is rented to a clerk named L.D. Hudon.

1889 The house is taken over by the Ministry of Defence and integrated into the Arsenal complex. Following a few renovations, it houses the superintendent's assistant and his family, and later the night watchman. Then it becomes the factory's personnel office.

1898 Building of an annex on the west side, near the kitchen.

1903 Addition of a wing on the northeast side.

1981-1983 End of restoration work, setting up of a centre for developing children's awareness of heritage. The gardens in the yard are recreated.

1988 Building of a traditional outdoor bread oven recalling the bakery.

1995 Parks Canada begins reconstitution of the captain's family residence as it may have been in the 1830s.

The old-fashioned bread oven recalls the era of the bakery.
PHOTO: PARKS CANADA/ XAVIER BONACORSI

GUN CARRIAGE WAREHOUSE

1813 Proposal for construction in St. John Bastion. Project is delayed because of the war against the Americans (1812-1814).

1815 Building and furnishing of the wood building with a stone foundation.

1831-1841 The building is rebuilt using masonry.

1864 Significant damage caused by the explosion of the laboratory located near the south end. Rebuilding.

1884 Establishment of the *Compagnie d'éclairage électrique de Québec et Lévis* in the south section.

1898 Modification of the south section to house the Arsenal guard, following the departure of the electrical company.

1978 Restoration of the building structure ends.

1997 Establishment of *Les Dames de Soie*, a doll economuseum recalling the presence of children throughout the history of the site.

The gun carriage warehouse, now restored, is used for group activities at Artillery Park National Historic Site.
PHOTO: PARKS CANADA/ XAVIER BONACORSI

Arsenal Foundry

1903-1906 Building of the iron foundry following the demolition of the St. John powder magazine. This becomes necessary because of the transforming of the New Barracks' old iron foundry into a copper and brass foundry for manufacturing artillery shells. Typical architecture from the Industrial Revolution.

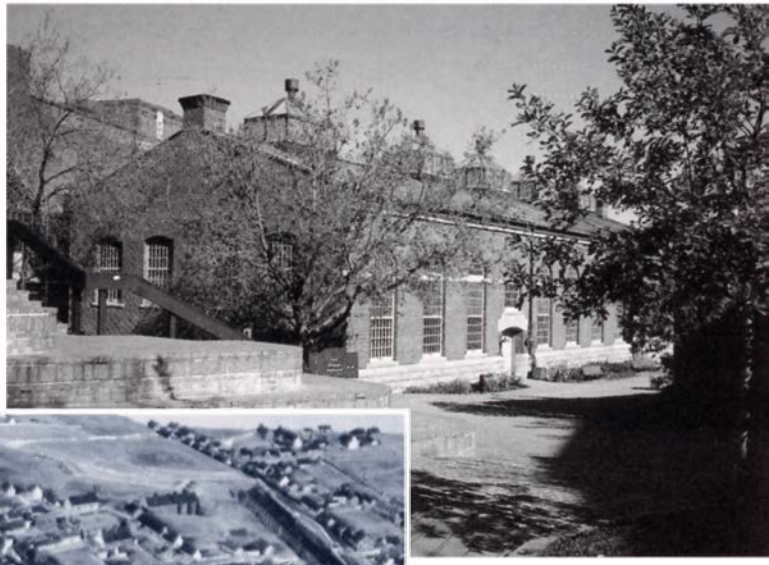
1941 Converted into a shell detonator factory. Creation of a mezzanine, which opens up an additional floor without losing the natural light provided by the large windows. Building of the west annex.

1945 The building is used as a garage and later as an armoury.

1978 End of restoration and opening to the public.

1981 Installing of the scale model by Jean-Baptiste Duberger and John By. This three-dimensional model of the city was made in Québec at the beginning of the 19th century. After a stay in London and Ottawa, it is returned to its place of origin.

The foundry converted into a factory for manufacturing detonators for artillery shells in World War II. Above, on the mezzanine, the workers' cafeteria.
Photo: Photo Moderne Enr. 1941



The Arsenal Foundry became the Artillery Park Interpretation Centre. It features the remains of the St. John powder magazine, an exhibition on the workers of the Arsenal and the Duberger and By scale model.
Photo: Parcs Canada/L.A. Couturier

Duberger and By scale model, today set up in the Arsenal Foundry. One of the most highly appreciated exhibits on the site, the scale model serves as an important reference point for anyone interested in the history of the city of Québec.
Photo: Parks Canada

The Past Lives On

From the soldiers of the *Troupes franches de la marine* who froze in winter crammed into the barrack rooms of the Dauphine Redoubt, to the officers who were members of the prestigious Royal Artillery & Royal Engineers Mess and relished over delicious meals where wine flowed freely, the history of Artillery Park is composed of contrasts and sudden turns of events. Bearing witness at times to military victories and associated celebrations and at others to devastating explosions and fires, the site still conserves the signs of these events that marked the history of the city of Québec and that of the entire country.

Since 1971, the national historic site's interpretation team has drawn the inspiration required to fulfil its mandate from the everyday activities of the site's residents. In contrast to museums where attention is centred on the exhibited object, the historic site benefits from the fact that it invites visitors to relive history at the very place in which the events occurred. Artillery Park derives its national historic significance from its role as an integral part of Québec's defence system set up in the colonial era. Residents of the region, students, and tourists who drop by revisit the life of the soldiers who played a role in writing the history of the city. The Arsenal's interpretation theme is combined with that of the barracking of soldiers, to the visitors' delight.

Impressive historical and archaeological research as well as restoration and heritage presentation work have enabled Parks Canada to create this national historic site which, in itself, is worth a visit to Artillery Park. If it is true that knowledge of the past improves our understanding of the present, the nearly 300-year history of Artillery Park is a must for anyone interested in Québec.

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Artillery Park bears tangible evidence to the three great periods of Canadian history. The military authorities in New France played a pioneering role in developing Québec's first defence enclosures and in setting up the first soldiers' residences. The British who succeeded them diversified the site's functions and converted it into true military quarters. Following the departure of the British, the Canadian authorities in charge of setting up the cartridge factory had to demolish some structures, but at least they succeeded in saving the unity of the site and in passing it on to future generations.

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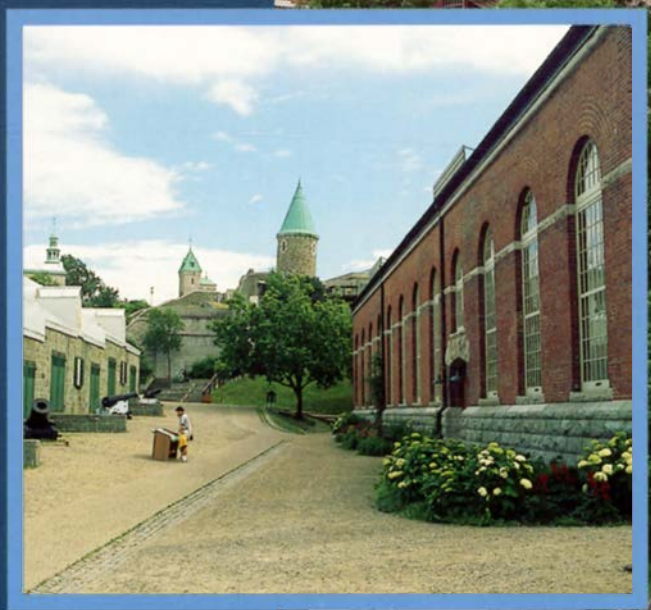

ÉDITIONS
CONTINUITÉ

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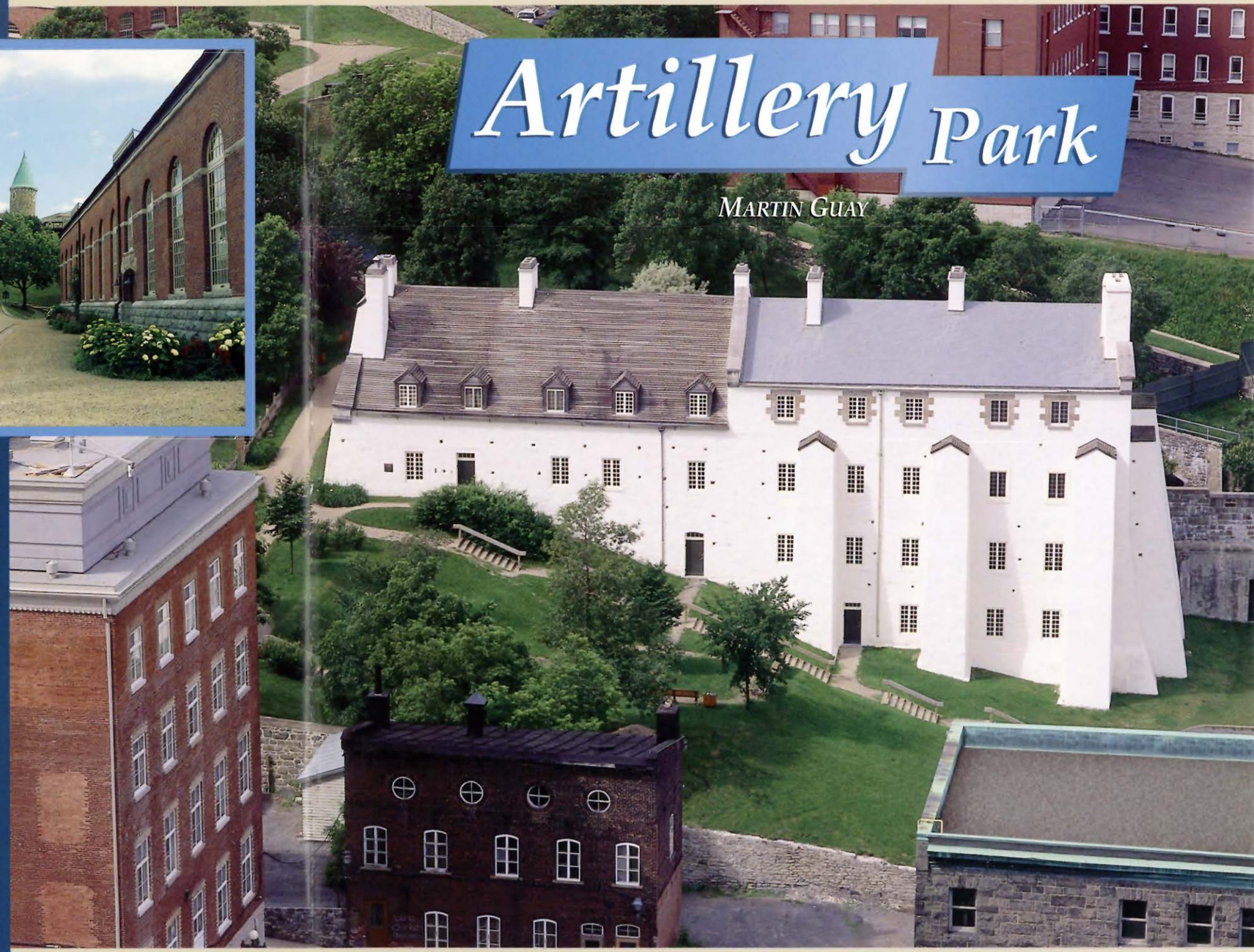
ÉDITIONS CONTINUITÉ

Artillery Park

MARTIN GUAY



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