

89-04

Selkirk, Manitoba
Southwest Bastion
Lower Fort Garry

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

The Southwest Bastion was constructed between 1841-48, used as a wash and cook house, and later used for storage. It was built by two masons, Duncan McRae and John Clouston. The structure was restored in the 1970s. It is currently used as storage space. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 89-04.

Reasons for Designation

The Southwest Bastion was designated Recognized because of its environmental and local significance within Lower Fort Garry, its architectural importance, and its historical associations.

The fort is defined by the perimeter walls and bastions within which all the buildings have a cohesive design and visual unity. The adjacent flat cleared farmland is unchanged. The bastion, in forming part of the fort wall, is familiar as part of the defensive perimeter seen by visitors.

The Southwest Bastion is a good example of the low circular tower form used for wall bastions at the fort. Its construction occurred in response to concerns about a possible American invasion in the 1840s. The bastion is also associated with the garrisoning of troops for defense of western fur trade and with the consolidation of the fur trade at the fort.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Southwest Bastion resides in its form, its overall proportions, its construction materials and architectural details, its interior layout, and its relationship to the site and setting.

The bastion is a circular two-storey structure with a medium-pitched conical roof. It has two gabled dormers and three chimneys. In keeping with its role as part of the fort defense system, the building has stocky proportions and a scale that is dictated by the fort's wall height. The roof profile, footprint, massing and materials are characteristic of the design of defensive bastions at the fort and should be maintained. Reinstatement of the missing exterior loft access stairs would complete the restoration, and should be considered when the opportunity arises.

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Selkirk, Manitoba
Bastion (Southwest) (Continued)

The rough limestone of the walls and the wood of the shingle roof and dormer siding are the main materials. The simple rectangular wood door and the window openings relate to the defensive purpose underlying the design. The stone walls were repointed and the foundations and roof shingles replaced in the early 1970s. The exterior materials merit regular maintenance and repair. The new multi-paned sash windows and the wood slab doors are consistent with the original design and should be retained.

The circular plan divided into two spaces has been used mainly for storage. The wooden floor has been replaced and is in keeping with the character of the building. Surviving original interior finishes and materials should be preserved and maintained.

The current simple grassed landscape is appropriate and should be maintained as such without embellishment.

1996.09.26

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