

St. Helen's Island Heritage Site

<http://www.patrimoine-culturel.gouv.qc.ca/RPCQ/detailBien.do?methode=consulter&bienId=118261>

In the 19th century, Montreal served as a distribution hub for war equipment, weapons and munitions for the military. Built by the English between 1820 and 1824 for British troops in North America, the military complex on St. Helen's Island is an eloquent statement to this era. The fortifications are comprised of a number of buildings including:

- **Arsenal:** This main building stored all of the military materials supplied to British troops West of Quebec City. The stone building is now home to the Stewart Museum.
- **Workshops:** Smithing and repair work was carried out in this wooden structure, which also served as a warehouse. It was demolished in the late 1920s.
- **Guardhouse:** This wooden building served as a lookout for the road leading to the military jetty.
- **Small powder magazine:** With a 1,500 barrel capacity, the small powder magazine was restored in the early 2000s. The work included the renovation of its lightning rod.
- **Barracks:** This imposing three-storey stone building was partly destroyed by fire in 1875. Only the vaults that housed the kitchens still stand.
- **Large powder magazine:** Located in the centre of St. Helen's Island, the large powder magazine is protected by its own enclosure wall. For many years, it was the largest powder magazine West of Quebec City, with a storage capacity of 5,000 barrels of powder.