

Halifax, Nova Scotia

**York Redoubt**

**Artillery Stores (No. 629)**

Halifax Defence Complex

The former Artillery Stores of York Redoubt was constructed between 1870 and 1873 for the colonial garrison of the Imperial War Department based at Halifax, under the command of Major General Hastings Doyle. The Artillery Stores building, which combined a "Store for Sidearms and Tackle" on the south, an "Artillery Store for Small Stores" in the centre and an "Artillery Store for General Store" on the north, was designed to service the three 10-inch rifled muzzle loading guns (RMLs) in the open North Battery and the eight 9-inch RMLs in the open Eastern Battery. The building was designed by the Corps of Royal Engineers. External modifications include: the conversion of the double door with transom at the west wall of the Artillery Store for Small Stores to a window (c. 1888), the blocking of the lamp recess at the west wall of the Artillery Store for General Store and the addition of a frame canteen against the west wall (c. 1888), the blocking of the three windows of the Artillery Store for General Store, and the demolition of the canteen (c.1948), the breaking down of the chimney stack, the re-covering of the roof and the boarding up of all openings (c. 1965). Internal modifications include the removal of all interior fittings and furnishings (n.d.). The former Artillery Stores is currently the property of Canadian Heritage. See FHBRO Building Report 95-01, Volume 3.

**Reasons for Designation**

The former Artillery Stores was designated Recognized because of its important historical associations and the important role it plays in the environment.

The theme identified for the structure is the defence of the Imperial naval station during the period of heightened tension following the Trent affair of 1861, and the change in armament technology represented by the introduction of the RML gun. Displaying the general form of an artillery stores building of the RML period, the York Redoubt building is a rare surviving example of this class of stores.

Changes to the military character of the site are minor in nature and easily reversible. As the northernmost of three extant 1870's buildings of similar scale which lined the roadway between the Old Gorge Wall and the RML emplacements, the Artillery Stores building is essential to the preservation of this historic axis.

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**Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the former Artillery Stores resides in its status as a specialized military structure, integral to a permanent fortification, to take reserve and unserviceable stores (Artillery Stores for General Store), sights, elevating arcs and other removable fittings (Artillery Store for Small Stores), sponges, rammers, handspikes, tackle and other appliances (Store for Sidearms and Tackle) for service of the RML guns. Externally, the features characteristic of this multi-functional building type include: the elongated rectangular plan, the opening pattern which acknowledges the diverse requirements of each function (in the case of the Store for Sidearms and Tackle, a double door with transom on the east and west walls and a single large double hung window in the gable end wall; in the case of the Artillery Store for Small Stores, a double door with transom on the east and west walls; and in the case of the Artillery Store for General Store, a double door with transom in the gable end wall and a double hung window and lamp recess, accessed from the exterior at the west wall). The irregular coursed ironstone rubble walls with corner quoins, the window openings (brick camber jack arched lintels, brick quoined jambs and stone lug sills), the door openings in the side walls (timber wall plate lintel and stone threshold), the north gable end door opening (a camber jack arched brick lintel and stone threshold) and the single chimney stack (now demolished) with a double course oversailing and two chimney pots, are also character defining features, which need protection.

The repair and repainting of the existing doors and frames and the restoration of missing door and window assemblies would greatly enhance the heritage character of the exterior of this building.

Internally, the features most characteristic of this type of structure are the solid brick partitions dividing the three stores, the herringbone pattern brick flooring, the stove heating system in the Artillery Stores for Small Stores and General Store (a stone chimney thimble and cleanout in each), and tongue and groove board ceiling. These features should be protected.

Anchor holes and ghosting patterns on the walls and floor survive as evidence of the characteristic fittings which lined the interior. In the southern end (the store for sidearms and tackle): a rack for sidearms, bays for handspikes, hooks for brackets, tackle

brackets and some shelves for brushes. In the centre (artillery store for small stores): a

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continuous bench with cupboards and two shelves on the wall above, hooks to take tube boxes (hung by a strap), hooks to take prickers, a bench for tools and implements, a cleaning bench with a vice and a shelf above, and brackets for preventer ropes. In the northern end (artillery store for general store): hooks for tackle, racks for side-arms, bays or racks for handspikes, and benches and shelves for small stores. The value of the anchor holes and ghosting patterns to future restoration efforts cannot be overstated. No interim renovation of the interior should be contemplated which would jeopardize this important asset.

The historic relationship between the Artillery Stores and the roadway and RML emplacements to the east has changed largely because of efforts made in the late-1960's to create a safe and picturesque park-like treatment of the site; e. g., the filling of the surface-gutter east of the present building, and the spreading of topsoil and cultivation of turfgrass on the south, west and north sides of the building. Extant historical photographs are available as a guide to historic grades and materials which would enhance the military character of the site.

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

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