

Halifax, Nova Scotia

York Redoubt

Bread and Meat Store, Ablution Room, Cook House, Coal Store and Store for Field Forge (Cook House) (No. 626)

Halifax Defence Complex

The former Bread and Meat Store, Ablution room, Cook House, Coal Store and Store for Field Forge (Cook House) of York Redoubt was constructed in 1873 for the colonial garrison of the Imperial War Department based at Halifax, and under the command of Major General Hastings Doyle. The multi-functional building, used initially for the feeding of the garrison (ablution room, cook house, bread store and meat store), housing the smith (field forge store), and maintaining a supply of heating coal (coal store), was designed by the Corps of Royal Engineers. External modifications include: the removal of the storm porches at the cook house, ablution room, and meat store (n.d.), the replacement of the framed ledged and braced heavy double doors of the coal store by a four panel, partially glazed door with glazed sidelights (c. 1888), the breaking of a window opening in the west wall of the same room (c. 1888), the removal of the built-in gutter and downspouts at the east elevation (n.d.), and the boarding up of all openings (c. 1965). Internal modifications include: the demolition of the brick partition between the field forge store and coal store (c. 1888), the breaking of a single door opening in the partition between the cook house and coal store (n.d.), and the removal of interior fittings and furnishings (n.d.). The former cook house is currently the property of Canadian Heritage. See FHBRO Building Report 95-01, Volume 3.

Reasons for Designation

The former Cook house was designated Recognized because of the important role it plays in the built environment of York Redoubt, for its role in the internal operation of the garrison, and for its representative design.

The theme identified for the structure is the internal organization and operation of a permanent coastal fortification from the rifled muzzle-loading (RML) era.

Changes to the military character of the site are minor in nature and easily reversible. As the central of three extant 1870s buildings of similar scale which line the roadway between the Old Gorge Wall and the RML emplacements, the Cook House is essential to the maintenance of this historic alignment of buildings and roadway.

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Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the former Cook House resides in the features expressing its role as a multi-functional military structure for the storage of various articles required for making small repairs to the ordnance and carriages, for the storage of heating coal, and for the feeding of the garrison. Externally these features are the elongated rectangular plan; the opening pattern which acknowledges the diverse nature of each function (in the case of the field forge store, a double door opening in the gable end with double hung windows centred on the east and west walls; in the case of the coal store, a double door opening in the elevation facing the centre of the work; in the case of the cook house and the ablution room which are identical, a single door and double hung window in the elevation facing the centre of the work and a matching window centred on the opposite wall; in the case of the bread and meat stores which are similar, a single door on the side elevation and a double hung window in the gable end). The solid brick walls in English bond with segmental arches over the double doors and camber jack arches over the other doors and all of the windows, the cast concrete lug sills of the windows, the cut-stone lug thresholds of the doors, the low pitched gable roof and the irregular octagon brick chimney stack with a double course oversailing and four chimney pots, are also character defining features which merit protection. The heritage character of the exterior would be greatly enhanced by the restoration of the window assemblies.

Internally, the features most characteristic of this building type are the solid brick partitions separating the six internal spaces (one of which has been removed), and the heating and ventilating system in the cook house and ablution room areas (a stone chimney thimble and cleanout at the north and south smoke flues and a stone chimney thimble at the south-west and north-east ventilating flues). All are reminiscent of British military architecture of that time with a few adjustments to local conditions.

The historic relationship between the Cook House 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

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the surface-gutter east of the present building, the spreading of topsoil and cultivation of turfgrass on the south, west and north sides of the building, and the installation of a boulder with a commemorative plaque north of the ash pit. Extant historic photographs are available as a guide to historic grades and materials which would enhance the military character of the site.

97.10.20

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