

Halifax, Nova Scotia
Halifax Citadel
Southeast Salient (including Casemates Nos. 0 to 4)
Halifax Defence Complex

The Southeast Salient in the Citadel at Halifax was constructed between 1830 and 1847 for the colonial garrison of the Imperial War department based at Halifax, under commander-in-chief Lieutenant General Peregrine Maitland. The Salient was the work of three members of the Corps of Royal Engineers: Lieutenant-Colonel Gustavas Nicolls (1825-1831) credited with the original design; Lieutenant Colonel Rice Jones (1833-1842), who supervised most of the construction; and Lieutenant Colonel Patrick D. Calder (1842-1848), who modified the design to include 19 demi-casemates. Modifications are summarized at Appendix A to this document. The Southeast Salient is currently the property of Canadian Heritage. See FHBRO Building Report 95-01, Volume 1.

Reasons for Designation

The Southeast Salient was designated Classified because of its important historical associations, the qualities of its architectural design and the important role it plays in the environment.

The structure is associated with the active defence of the Imperial naval station in the period of mutual suspicion and hostility between Great Britain and the United States following the War of 1812, and in the period of heightened tension following the Trent affair of 1861. Displaying the prototypical characteristics of a bastioned masonry fort component designed for the mounting of smoothbore ordnance and later adapted for RML ordnance, the Salient is a valuable survivor from both eras.

The completion of the Salient in 1847 was part of a major upgrade of the Halifax defences advocated by the Smythe Report of 1825 and largely accomplished between 1838 and 1862. The civilian employment generated by this project and the increased personnel needed to man the defences gave a boost to the economy of Halifax. The growing importance of the Port of Halifax is illustrated by the commercial mast erected in the southeast salient to announce the arrival of shipping.

Viewed from the dry ditch, the Salient is impressive for the tall, slightly battered, coursed ironstone escarp walls topped by a projecting freestone coping and shaped sod parapet. Seen from within the gorge, the Salient is even more remarkable for its equally high reconstructed granite ashlar masonry retaining walls, supported over much

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of their length by an elegantly proportioned arcade fronting the 19 demi-casemates. The interior spaces demonstrate a simple geometry, plain surfaces and a feeling of solidity. Over its lifetime, the Southeast Salient has displayed a remarkable adaptability to change, including a partial and full rearmament of the rampart and between four and seven different uses for each casemate ranging from barrack room space to a military prison kitchen.

The restoration of the parapet profile, signal hut, signal mast, military telegraph mast and the parade ground surface in recent years has largely recovered the appearance of the Southeast Salient in the 1869-71 era, leaving only minor changes in the historic relationship between the building and its associated landscape. As an integral component of the main body of the work, with obvious signaling responsibilities, the Salient has a strong influence on the military character of the Citadel site. The firing of one of the 32-pounders as a noon day gun and the dominating presence of the signaling mast give the Salient a strong identity within the community.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Salient resides in features expressing its specialized military function, a projection of a bastioned fort, for the mounting of artillery on the ramparts and firing through embrasures or en barbette for harbour defence, the mounting of artillery in casemates for defence of the dry ditch, the passage of defenders to the ditch if under attack, and the accommodation of military prison facilities. Externally, the features which define the heritage character of this salient are the shape (two escarp wall faces forming a salient angle), the construction of the rampart (an irregularly coursed ironstone rubble escarp wall with counterforts, a rubble filling, and retaining wall of coursed granite ashlar), and the openings for close defence of the ditch (gun-ports and flanking musketry loopholes). Also defining the character of this salient is the presence of demi-casemates on the retaining wall face, a series of segmental arches with voussoirs supported on piers with stepped buttresses at every second pier.

The heritage character of the exterior would be best protected by conservation treatment of the miscellaneous iron elements (the iron balustrades on the stairs, the bars on the gun-port and musketry loophole embrasures of casemate 4, and the

drainpipes bracketed off the retaining wall), cleaning of the iron oxide and efflorescence

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staining of the masonry, regular repointing of the ironstone and granite walling, inspection of potential weak points in the rampart waterproofing (the junction of the escarp and dwarf retaining walls with the roofs of the casemates), and keeping catchbasins and drains clear.

Internally the features most characteristic of this type of structure are the vaulted bomb-proof construction of the casemate roofs (segmental profile brick vaults of multiple rings, a cementitious coating, an asphalt layer, and a thick earth cover), and the open fireplaces (now bricked up) connected by inclined flues to chimney stacks projecting from the parapet.

The heritage character of the interior would be best protected by monitoring the performance of the waterproofing over the casemates, unblocking the stove pipe and fireplace openings, restoring the historic brick floors and keeping up the pointing on the wall and ceiling surfaces.

The historic relationship between the Southeast Salient and the interior of the main body of the work has been enhanced and strengthened in recent years by the restoration of the West Curtain, Redan, Northeast Salient, demi-bastion retaining walls, the Cavalier, the boundary wall of the South Magazine, and the surface of the parade. The continued maintenance of these features and those elements on the ramparts mentioned previously will preserve the military character of the fortification.

APPENDIX A

External modifications include: the partial blocking up of a door in casemate 4 to form a window (pre-1849); the erection of a signal mast for commercial purposes at the Salient and the erection of a military telegraph mast on the south ramparts (pre 1860); the dismounting of the 8-inch gun in the salient and the construction of a new emplacement formed in granite with brick lined ammunition and shell recesses for a 9-inch RML gun on dwarf traversing platform, the construction of sod traverses either side of the emplacement, the dismounting of the 32-pounder gun on the right face and the reshaping of the parapet (1864-1868); the blocking of the gun-port and musketry loopholes of casemate 1 (1864-1879); the move of the signal mast to the re-entrant

angle of the retaining wall (1865); the reconstruction of the 9-inch RML emplacement in the Salient for a 7-inch RML gun on dwarf traversing platform with a pivot, the

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dismounting of the two 32-pounder guns on the left face and the restoration of the parapet (1874-1879); the reconstruction of the retaining wall including the demi-casemates, the addition of one window in each of casemates 1 and 2 and the elimination of the door to casemate 0 (1875); the addition of two masonry buttresses to the bulging escarp wall on the left face (1880-1907); the cutting down of a window to form a door and the partial blocking up of a door to form a window in casemate 3; the breaking of a door between the two windows of casemate 4, the bricking up of demi-casemate 12 and the insertion of a window (pre 1891); the conversion of the gun-ports and musketry loopholes in casemates 3 and 4 to two large windows (1880-1900); the collapse of a 105-foot section of escarp wall on the left face into the ditch (c. 1920); the cutting down of the window /former gun-port in casemate 4 to form a door (post 1924); the removal of blocking beneath the window in casemate 3 to restore the door (1928-1954); the removal of the masts (1953); the restoration of the collapsed section of escarp wall on the left face including buttresses (1955); and the restoration of the door to casemate 0 (post 1956), the reconstruction of the signal and military telegraph masts, and the restoration of the gun-ports and musketry loopholes of casemates 3 and 4 (c. 1983). For the sake of brevity a listing of the various buildings constructed, demolished and restored on the ramparts and in the gorge are omitted. Internal modifications include: the breaking of a communicating door between casemates 3 and 4 (pre 1849); the insertion of a brick partition with communicating door and lamp recess in casemate 0, the breaking of an issue hatch between casemates 0 and 1 and the shortening of casemate 0 (1864-1879); the partitioning of casemate 3 (c. 1900); the bricking up of the lamp recesses and fireplaces of casemates 1 through 4 (n.d.); the partitioning of casemate 4 and the breaking of a second communicating door between casemates 3 and 4 (pre 1922); and the bricking up of the communicating doors and the demolition of the partitioning in casemates 3 and 4 (n.d.).

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