

Halifax, Nova Scotia  
**Admiralty House**  
CFB Halifax

## **HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT**

Admiralty House, Halifax, was constructed between ca. 1815 and 1819 to house the Commander in Chief of the Royal Navy's North American Station. Now in the hands of the Department of National Defence, the building has been designated a National Historic Site by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada and plaqued as such in 1982. See FHBRO Building Report 83-74.

### **Reason for Designation**

On July 17, 1984, the building was designated by FHBRO a Classified building. This designation reflects its architectural excellence, its significant and continuing association with Canada's military history, and its considerable role in defining the character of the western end of the dockyard area.

### **Character Defining Elements**

On the exterior, Admiralty House remains an imposing example of British Classicism, despite numerous superficial changes. Exterior details, like the balustrade of the widow's walk, shutters, open portico at the main entrance, and open rear verandah, have come and gone. Nevertheless, what is truly characteristic of the building remains: its regular proportions, the central focus provided by its main entrance, and the symmetrical arrangement of its windows and corner chimneys. No change should be contemplated which in any way compromises the essential symmetry of this building.

Admiralty House served its primary residential function from ca. 1819 to 1904. Its many uses thereafter and the damages it suffered in the 1917 explosion have altered both plan and finishes in parts - though not in all - of the interior. Any interior work on the building should be preceded by a careful assessment of the fabric in question to determine whether or not it is original.

While encroachment has taken place around Admiralty House, aspects of its original formal siting do survive: the setback from Gottingen Street, the oval drive, and the landscaped front grounds. These aspects of the building's original siting should be retained, without encroachments, as they do much to enhance the still-clear reading of the building's Classical façade and to characterize the authentic early XIX century setting.

-2-

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**Admiralty House** (Continued)

Reconstruction of the balustrade of the widow's walk would once again afford that vista to visitors to Admiralty House.

Now the home of the Marine Command Museum, Admiralty House has continuously served military and para-military functions for over a century and a half. Continued military use, respecting the basic form and fabric of the original house, would be most appropriate.

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