

Halifax, Nova Scotia  
**Former Artillery Stores (No.91)**  
**Fort Charlotte, Georges Island**  
Halifax Defence Complex

The former Artillery Stores of Fort Charlotte was constructed between 1873 and 1877 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 Side Arms and Tackle" on the west and an "Artillery Small Store" on the east, was designed to service the rifled muzzle-loading (RML) guns of Fort Charlotte. The building was designed by Lieutenant-General William F. Drummond Jervis and Lieutenant E. Harding Steward of the Corps of Royal Engineers (an annotated working drawing of a side arms store and small store, attributed to Jervis, similar in almost every respect to those at Fort Charlotte, was published in "Papers on Subjects Connected with the Duties of the Corps of Royal Engineers...", Volume XIX, 1871). External modifications include: the pouring of concrete entrance floors at both doors (c. 1901); the addition of a brick latrine, sump and lavatory base (c. 1914); and the re-roofing of the building and the boarding up of all openings (c. 1965). Internal modifications include the stripping out of all original store fittings and heating stoves (c. 1901), and the insertion of a door in the central partition (c. 1914). The former Artillery Stores is currently the property of Canadian Heritage. See FHBRO Building Report 95-01, Volume 2.

### **Reasons for Designation**

The former Artillery Stores was designated Recognized because of its important historical associations and its environmental significance.

The theme identified for the building 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 Fort Charlotte building is a rare surviving example of this class of stores.

The relatively minor changes made in the area of ground adjacent to the building (documented above), have had little impact on the historic character of the site. As one of only three surface buildings erected on the parade inside the work until the 1890s, the former Artillery Stores is an essential component of this historic grouping of support buildings.

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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, for the service of an RML gun battery. Externally, the features which define the character of this building are: the elongated rectangular plan with double door openings and glazed transoms in the gable ends; the Flemish bond, solid brick walls with a recessed panel treatment on the long sides; the shallow segmental rowlock arched openings; the precast concrete lug sills at the windows; the single brick chimney stack with a double course oversailing; and the low pitched gable roof to present less of an aiming mark.

The heritage character at the exterior would be greatly enhanced by the restoration of the door and window assemblies in the gable ends.

Internally, the features of note are the physical separation of the "side arms and tackle stores" and the "artillery small stores" by a solid brick wall, the herringbone pattern brick flooring, the system of stove heating in both areas (a metal chimney thimble on the small stores face of the chimney, a metal chimney thimble and two cleanouts on the side arms and tackle face of the chimney), the communicating door with a shallow segmental rowlock arch and built-in solid timber frame and the light character of the roof framing.

Anchor holes and ghosting on the walls and floor survive as evidence of the characteristic fittings which lined the interior. In the western half (the store for side arms and tackle) there are a rack for side arms; bays for handspikes, levers, etc.; brackets for tackle; hooks for buckets; and shelves for brushes. In the eastern half (the artillery small store), there are pegs to take cartridge cylinders; hooks to take tube box (hung by a strap); hooks for prickers; a bench for tools, fitments and implements; a cleaning bench with shelf above; benches for small stores; and brackets for preventer ropes. The value of the anchor holes and ghosting to future restoration efforts cannot be overstated. No interim renovation of the interior should jeopardize this important historic asset.

The historic relationship between the Former Artillery Stores, the entrance passage, the

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parade, and other surviving surface buildings (Former Laboratory, Former Field Forge Store) is largely intact and unaffected by the construction and subsequent demolition of a Royal Engineers' store and latrine from the 1890's and a number of temporary wood buildings from World War I. Any change in the present arrangement, other than restoration of the earthwork forming the gorge to the south and the cutting back of vegetation generally, will have a negative impact on the military character of the area.

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

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