

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT FORMER MARRIED OFFICERS' QUARTERS (No. 125), HALIFAX, NS

FHBRO number: **95-01**
DFRP number: **02990**
Resource name: **Former Married Officers' Quarters (No. 125)**
Address: **Georges Island N.H.S.C., Halifax Defence Complex, Halifax, Nova Scotia**
FHBRO status: **"Recognized" Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1901**
Designer: **Corps of Royal Engineers**
Original function: **Living quarters for married officers' and their wives**
Current function: **National Historic Site of Canada**
Modifications: **Demolition of the rear entrance vestibule and yard fence (n.d.); re-roofing of the main building using sawn wood shingles (c. 1994); boarding up of all openings (c. 1990s); loss of interior finishes and joinery due to decay and vandalism**
Custodian: **Parks Canada Agency**

Reasons for Designation

The Former Married Officers' Quarters is a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values:

Historical value:

The Former Married Officers' Quarters is associated with the internal administration of a coastal defence establishment in the early years of the 20th century. The Former Married Officers' Quarters was constructed during the second developmental phase of the submarine mining establishment at the Halifax defence complex (1885-1905) and was an integral part of this permanent establishment. Few buildings remain from among the many structures built for submarine mining at the Halifax defence complex or elsewhere in Canada.

Architectural value:

The former Married Officers' Quarters is a good example of turn of the century English cottage style dwellings with its characteristic massing, fenestration and architectural detail. A specialized military structure designed to provide living quarters for the married officer personnel and their spouses, this one-storey red brick building consists of an L-shaped plan with a recessed main entrance on the west elevation and slightly arched lintels above most of the openings.

Environmental value:

The Former Married Officers' Quarters is located a short distance from the archeological remains of the establishment, on the northwest side of the island, and is one of only six structures still standing on Georges Island from the second developmental phase. The Former Married Officers' Quarters is an essential component of this historic grouping of establishment buildings and a conspicuous landmark visible from the city of Halifax and familiar to visitors to the island and local boaters.

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Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of the Former Married Officers' Quarters should be respected:

Its role as an illustration of the internal administration of a coastal defence establishment in the early years of the 20th century is reflected in:

- its status as a specialized military structure, integral to a permanent submarine mining establishment for the accommodation of married officer personnel.

Its turn of the century English cottage style, its competent craftsmanship and good quality materials as manifested in:

- the composition of the building which consists of a medium pitched hipped roof and an L-shaped plan;
- the pattern of trimmed door openings and the combination of single and paired four-over-four double hung windows, trimmed with artificial stone lintels with a camber on the underside and a lug sill in the same material; and,
- the brick cavity walls constructed in the Flemish bond pattern with a bull nosing at the front door jambs and the timber joists and plates, as well as the brick chimney stacks with a quadruple course oversailing and fired clay pots.

The manner in which it reinforces the military character of the setting as evidenced in:

- its proximity to the archeological remains of the establishment and compatibility with the remaining structures still standing on Georges Island;
- its value as landmark, visible from the city of Halifax and familiar to visitors to the island and local boaters.

For guidance on interventions, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*. For further information contact FHBRO.

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