

**Point Pleasant Park Archeology
Historic Sites Guidelines 2005
Point Pleasant Park, Halifax NS**

**Prepared for: Halifax Regional Municipality
Halifax, Nova Scotia**

**Prepared by: Dr. Frederick A. Schwarz
Black Spruce Heritage Services**

March 15, 2005



General Observations

- **Designs that include maintaining certain open viewplanes are encouraged to select viewplanes that have historical validity, such as the sightlines from major fortifications, or former field locations**
- **In general, designs are encouraged to develop opportunities to preserve historical and archaeological features. Preservation in this instance may include stabilization, where necessary, and interpretation, where desired. At the very least, designs should avoid adverse impacts to historic resources or, if unavoidable, include measures to assess and mitigate those impacts**
- **Designers should be aware that a comprehensive archaeological inventory has not been completed within the Park, and the potential exists for hitherto unknown archaeological features which may have to be accommodated, buffered, or mitigated in design plans.**

1) Prince of Wales Tower Zone

The most obviously significant feature here is the Tower itself, but the surrounding area contains archaeological evidence of military structures and activities associated with the Tower, along with one stray find of a single precontact (Mi'kmaq) artifact (2,000 - 500 years old) and is archaeologically sensitive to landscaping activities. Historically, this area would have had open views to the south and east, and also to the west. As long as erosion is controlled, not especially sensitive to vegetation.

The Tower itself is possibly the most recognized historic structure in the Park, and certainly the best-preserved. Designs should ensure that this remains the case. Designers should be aware that lesser historic structures and subsurface archaeological remains extend widely around the tower itself and adverse impacts here must be avoided or mitigated.

2) Chain Battery Zone

The most significant features here are the Chain Battery and Chain Rock. Little additional archaeological evidence was recovered here, but Mi'kmaq oral history indicates potential traditional feasting and gathering sites, as well as burials, in this general area. Unlike most of the other fortifications, the battery here was not rebuilt in the nineteenth century, so it still has its original eighteenth century layout. Because it was abandoned so early, this area has probably been forested for most of the historic period, but trees growing directly on top of the earthwork are a continuing threat to the structure.

The earthwork is relatively stable in its present state and no additional archaeological remains have been recorded in the surrounding area. Nevertheless, designs should be sensitive to the potential for the remains of

Mi'kmaq feasting and ceremonial sites, and possibly human burials, in the area.

3) Cambridge Battery Zone

This zone contains many military features of varying ages, including Cambridge Battery itself (construction began 1862, disused by 1930s); an earthwork entrenchment dating to 1778; a magazine that served the defenses in the early nineteenth century; a campground and training battery used by the 76th Infantry Regiment in 1855; and various military-related ruins and artifacts dating from 1800-1900. The battery here mostly retains its 1860s-1870s configuration. Historically, the battery itself and the area in front was kept relatively open, though it appears that young trees were allowed to grow. Tree growth on the fortifications is an ongoing threat to the structure, while the areas in front (the heather patch, and Walker Battery) would also suffer if reforested. The area around Cambridge battery is archaeologically-sensitive to landscaping.

Designs should address the need for long-term safety and stability of the remains of the fortifications. Cambridge Battery is presently deteriorating, in part because of human activity and in part from the effects of vegetation growth on the structures. Designers should be aware that less well-known surface features and subsurface archaeological remains extend across much of this area and adverse impacts here must be avoided or mitigated.

4) Northwest Arm Battery Zone

This area includes the Northwest Arm Battery itself (first built 1762, disused after 1860s), archaeological remains associated with its barracks, a summer house built for the Park in the 1880s, and the locations of the first and second ferry houses for the Purcell's ferry (1850s-1911 and 1911-1971 respectively). The battery here retains its early-1800s configuration. Historically, the battery itself and the area in front was kept relatively open until quite recently. Renewed growth of large trees on the earthwork would be a threat to the structure. The area around Northwest Arm Battery is archaeologically-sensitive to landscaping because of remains associated with the barracks, and possibly with the ferry houses.

Trees no longer grow on the main earthwork here, which is now relatively stable and visible, though there is considerable young tree growth inside the earthwork. Designs should ensure the continued stability of the remains of the fortifications. Designers should be aware that subsurface archaeological remains extend behind and around the earthwork and adverse impacts here must be avoided or mitigated.

5) Point Pleasant Battery Zone

The most obvious standing feature here is Point Pleasant Battery itself, but archaeological remains associated with it are also found here and these are important. Though Point Pleasant Battery was first constructed in 1762, what is visible today dates mostly from the early twentieth century. Historically, this area was relatively open until the late nineteenth century. Reforestation here would eliminate historic viewplanes from what is now Heather Road but would not adversely impact

historic remains. However, extremely significant archaeological evidence on the early use of the battery in this area would be very sensitive to landscaping.

Designs should address the need for long-term safety and stability of the remains of the fortifications. This should include plans for managing coastal erosion of the structure. Designers should be aware that subsurface archaeological remains extend behind the fortification and adverse impacts here must be avoided or mitigated.

6) Old Fields Zone

This zone contains few obvious standing remains but archaeologically, there are fieldstone walls here which were laid out pre-1784, probably as early as the 1750s, and which are still partly preserved. There is abundant additional archaeological evidence for early settlement (mostly from about 1770 to 1840). The fields here were laid out soon after Halifax was founded, when peninsular Halifax was divided into five-acre lots for initial settlement. The remaining walls here are the best-preserved, and possibly the only, surviving archaeological evidence of the old five-acre lots remaining on the Halifax peninsula. The other traces of early settlement are also extremely significant. Historically, the area would have been open in the early days of settlement, much as it is today after the hurricane. This area includes unique evidence on the early settlement of Halifax and the entire area is archaeologically significant and sensitive.

Designers should be aware that significant subsurface archaeological remains and some surface-visible features exist in this area. Designs should ensure the preservation and interpretation of the stone wall features, and will need to avoid adverse impacts to surface-visible and subsurface remains.

7) Fort Oglivie Zone

The principal standing feature here is Fort Oglivie itself (first built 1793, used into 20th century), along with a small concrete observation post nearby. Archaeologically, there are also various ruins and artifacts related to the former barracks (approx 1790s-1940s). Though Fort Oglivie was first constructed in 1793, what is visible today dates mostly from the 1860s-1870s. Some of this zone is archaeologically sensitive. Historically, this area was likely kept open after 1793. Tree growth on the fortifications has been an ongoing threat to the structure, while the areas in front would lose historic viewplanes if reforested. However, some sort of stabilizing vegetation will have to be encouraged to prevent erosion of the steep escarpment and ditch.

Designs should address the need for long-term safety and stability of the remains of the fortifications. This includes the steep frontal escarpment and ditch. Designers should be aware that subsurface archaeological remains extend behind the fortification and adverse impacts here must be avoided or mitigated.

8) Green Field Zone

No obvious standing features are found here, but there is archaeological evidence for very early

settlement (approx 1760s-1800). As in Zone 6, settlement here began soon after Halifax was founded and the preserved archaeological remains here are extremely significant. Historically, the area would have been open in the early days of settlement, but forest was probably allowed to return here from a relatively early date. This area includes unique evidence on the early settlement of Halifax and the entire area is archaeologically significant and sensitive.

Designers should be aware that significant subsurface archaeological remains and some surface-visible features exist in this area, and while interpretation is an option, designs will need to avoid adversely-impacting these remains.