

**HALIFAX**

# Heritage Hearing

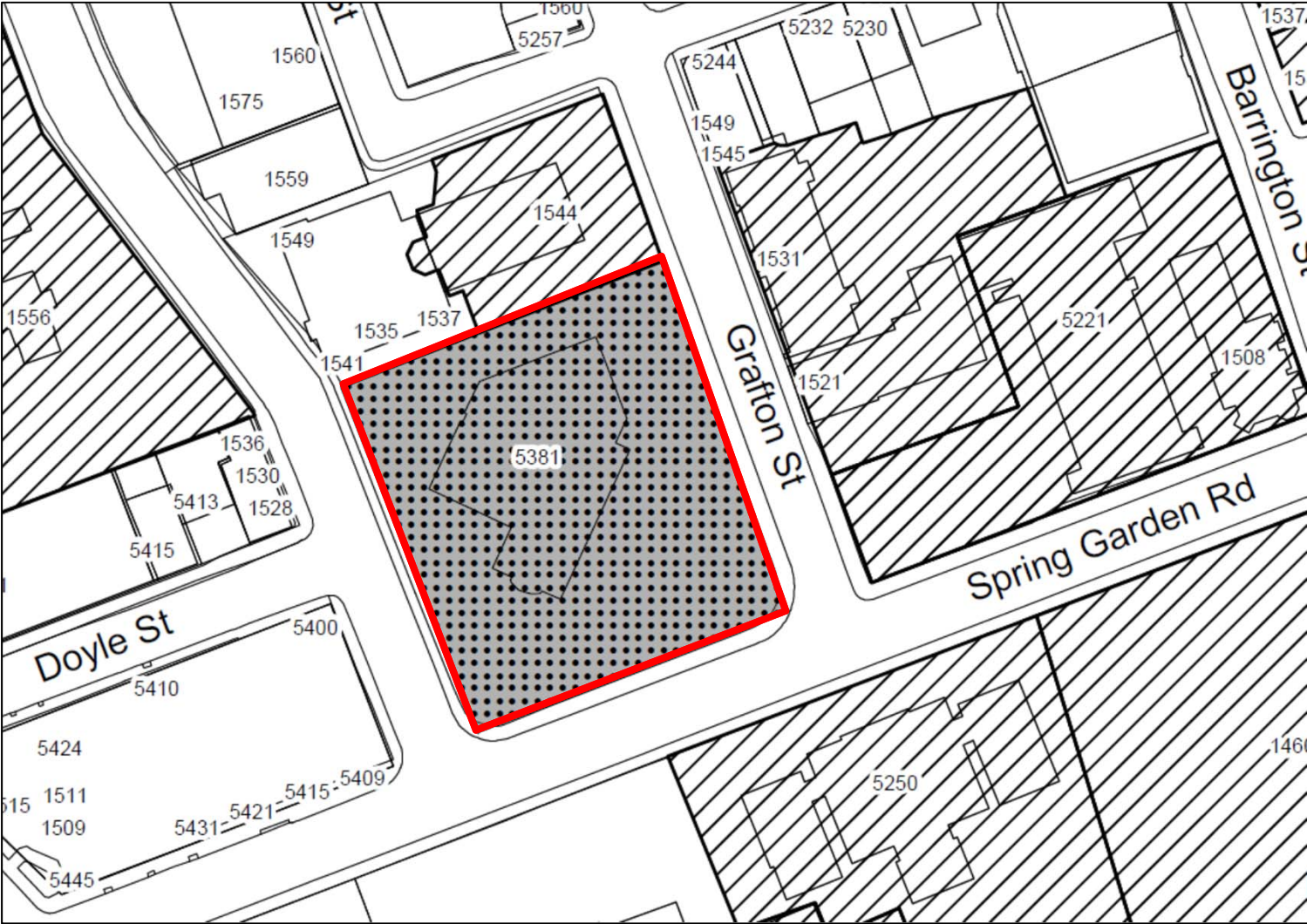
Case No. H00469

5381 Spring Garden Road

Former Halifax Memorial Library Site

February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

# Location



# Application Details

- This is a “third party” application by David Bentley, a resident of Halifax.
- The property is owned by Halifax Regional Municipality and has been vacant since the completion of the Halifax Central Library in 2013.

## Heritage Site vs. Heritage Property Evaluation

A **Heritage site** is defined as “an area, cultural landscape, or feature, together with any structures thereon, which is significant to the social, cultural, commercial, military or political history and development of Halifax Regional Municipality, the Province or Country.”

Properties evaluated under this set of criteria, if registered, will be formally designated a “heritage area” under the *Heritage Property Act*, which implies the same legal protection as a heritage property.

This designation provides more flexibility to consider landscape elements and the broader history of a site, rather than focusing on a structure.

Example: Public Gardens

**At their November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, HAC was provided with a choice of evaluating under either the “site” or “building” criteria. Due to the property’s long history predating the library, the heritage site criteria was used.**

# Heritage Site vs. Heritage Building Evaluation

The Evaluation Criteria for scoring a heritage site are broken down into four categories as follows:

Criterion	Highest Possible Score
1. Age / Continuity of Use	25
2. Historical Importance	25
3. Integrity	10
4. Context	10
Total	70

# **In terms of importance, the site's history can be broken down into three eras:**

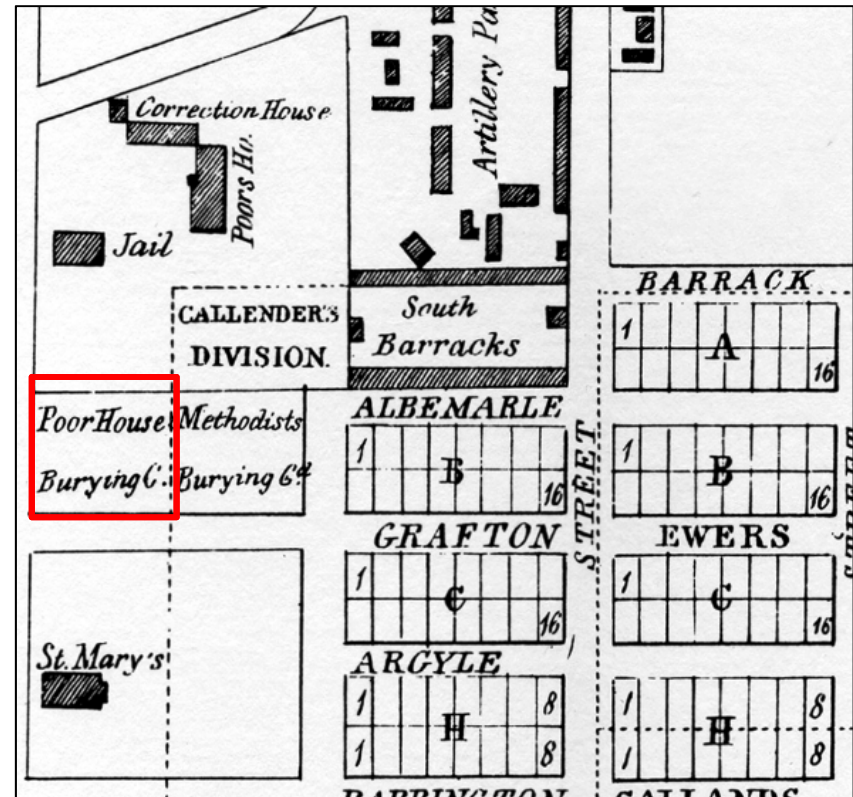
- a) Site of the Halifax poor asylum burial grounds (~1760-1869);
- b) Grafton Park (1870-1949); and
- c) Halifax Memorial Library (1951 – 2014).



# Age of the Site

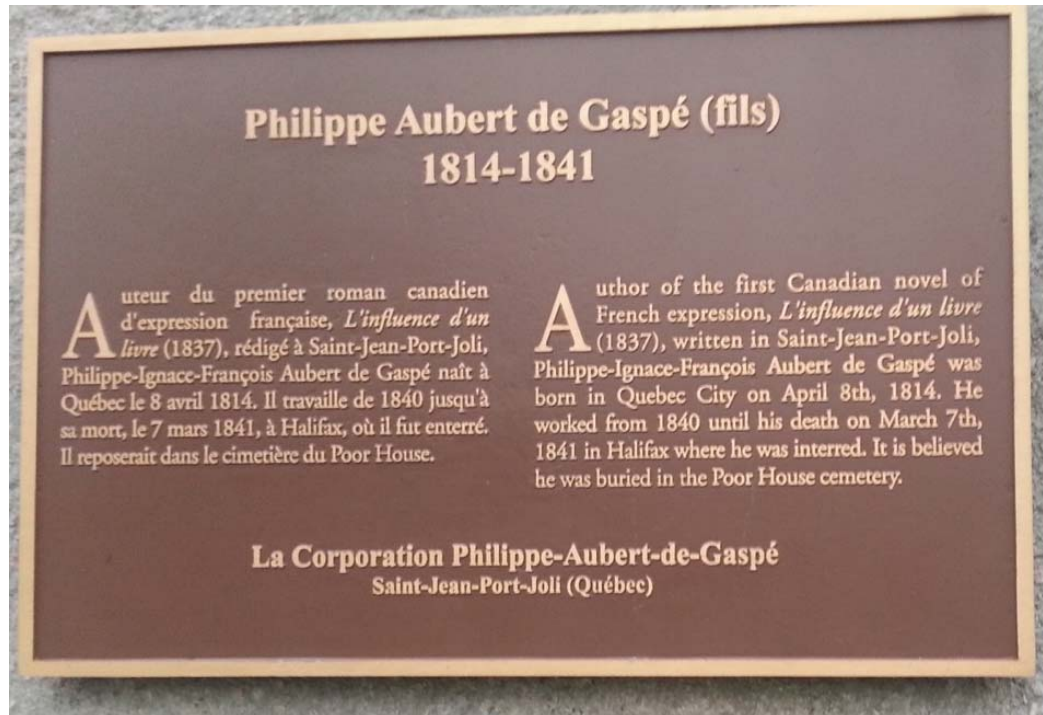


Town of Halifax, 1762 (copy of original) HRM Archives



Plan of the Town of Halifax, 1835

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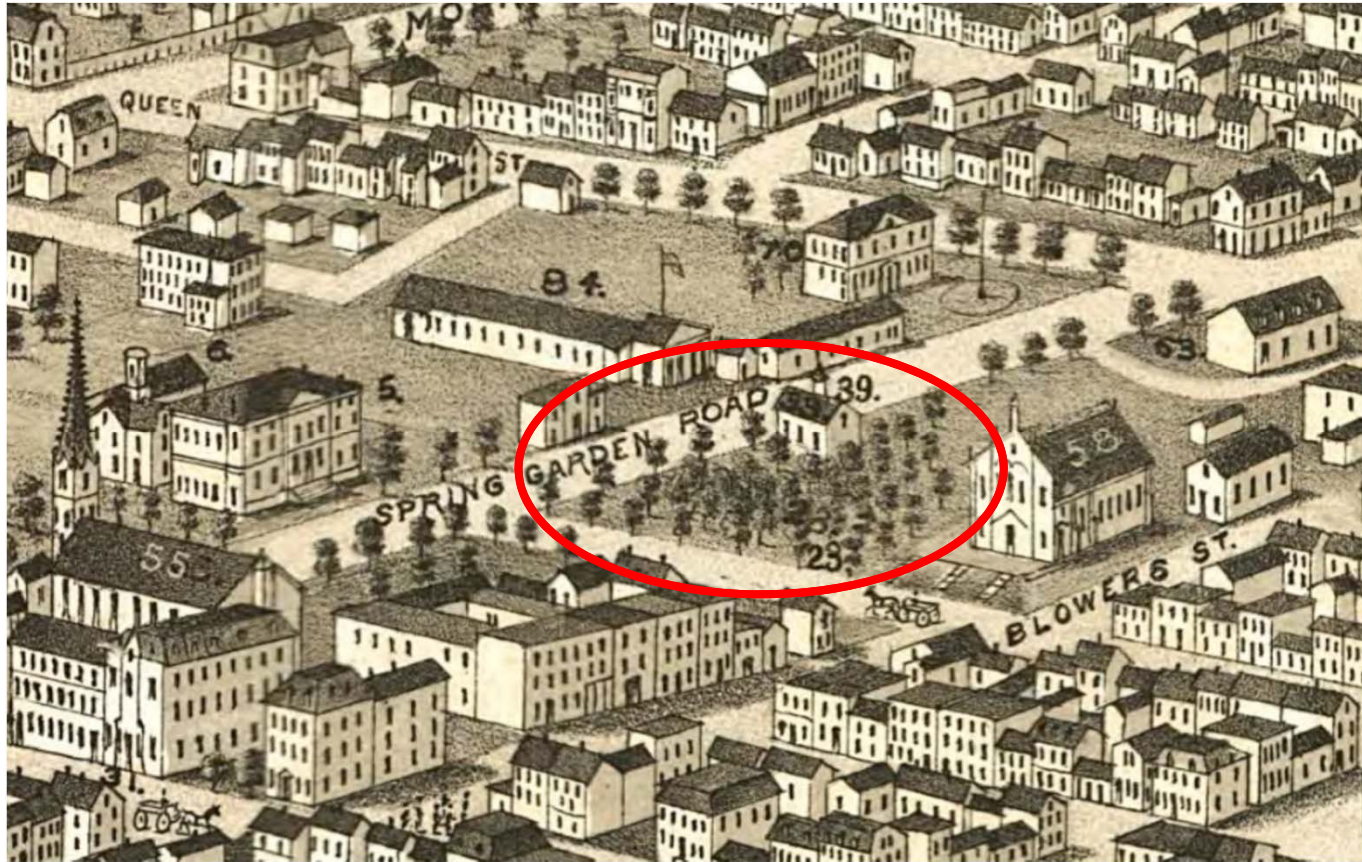
Philippe Aubert de Gaspé (Répertoire du patrimoine culturel du Québec)

## Philippe Aubert de Gaspé 1814-1841

- French Canadian writer credited with writing the first Canadian Novel in 1835

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Panoramic View of the City of Halifax, 1878

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Spring Garden Rd  
ENGINE House on  
corner of Hastings St.  
later Connolly's  
Book Store.

CARNIVAL.  
AUG. 10 1886.  
UNION ENGINE CO.  
SPRING GARDEN RD.  
MAYFLOWER. 5

Old Sport  
Tom Connors

Fire Station #5 in 1886, HRM

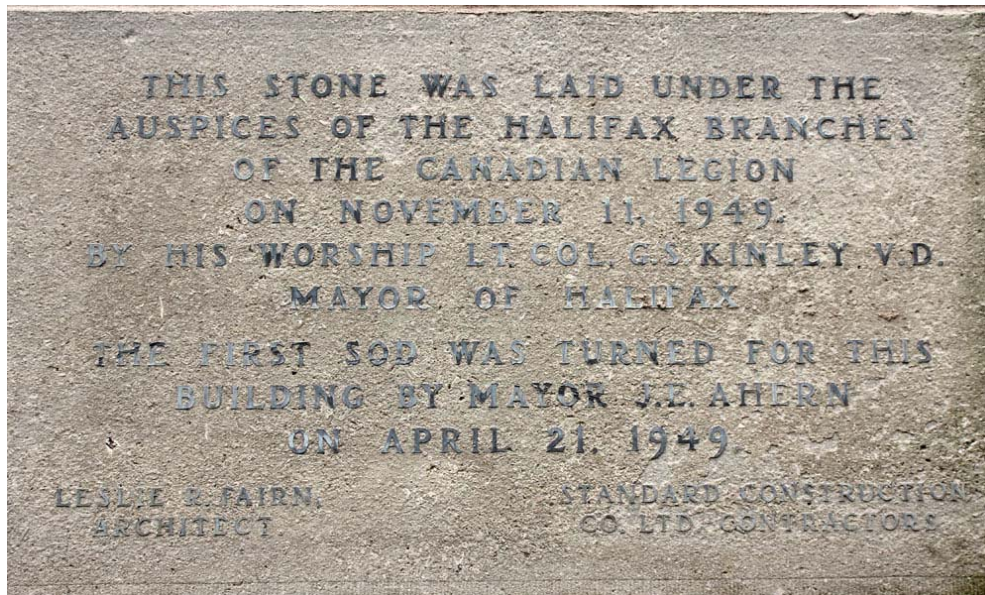


1921 Air Photo

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Halifax Memorial Library Rendering, 1949



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Turning the sod on the Memorial Library, 1949

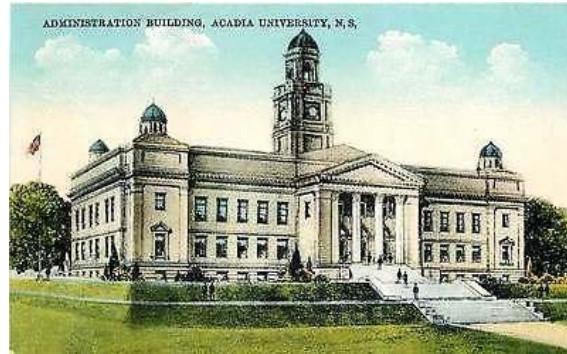


Grand Opening and bestowing memorial designation, 1951

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# Leslie R. Fairn, FRAIC (1875-1971)

- Well-known Nova Scotian Architect
- Charter member and fellow, Royal Architecture Institute of Canada

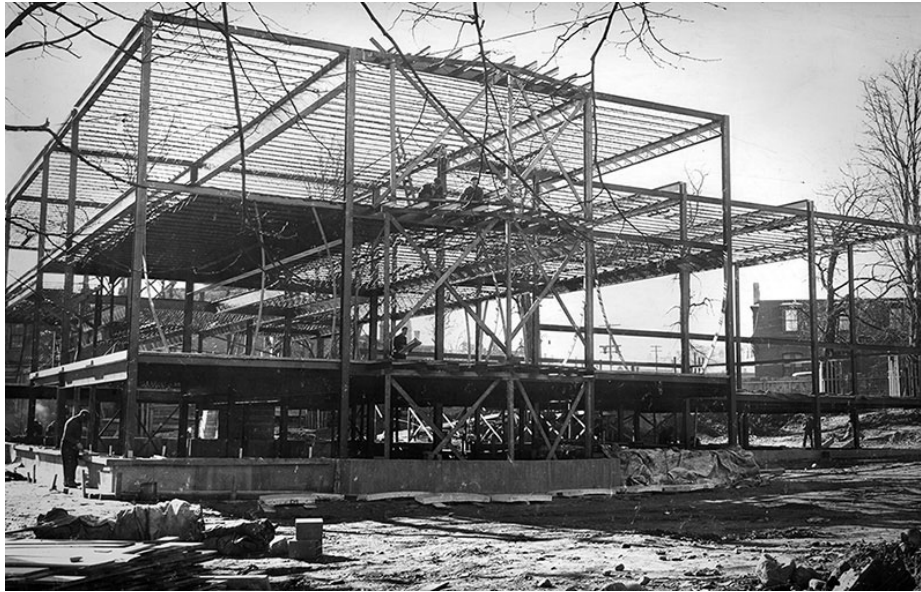


Fairn's notable buildings include:

- Kings County Courthouse (1903)
- Annapolis Royal Town Hall Memorial Building (1922)
- Administration Building, Acadia University, Wolfville (1924)
- Dominion Public Building, Amherst (1936)
- Henry Hicks Building, Dalhousie University, Halifax (1951)
- Killam Memorial Library, Dalhousie University, Halifax (1971)

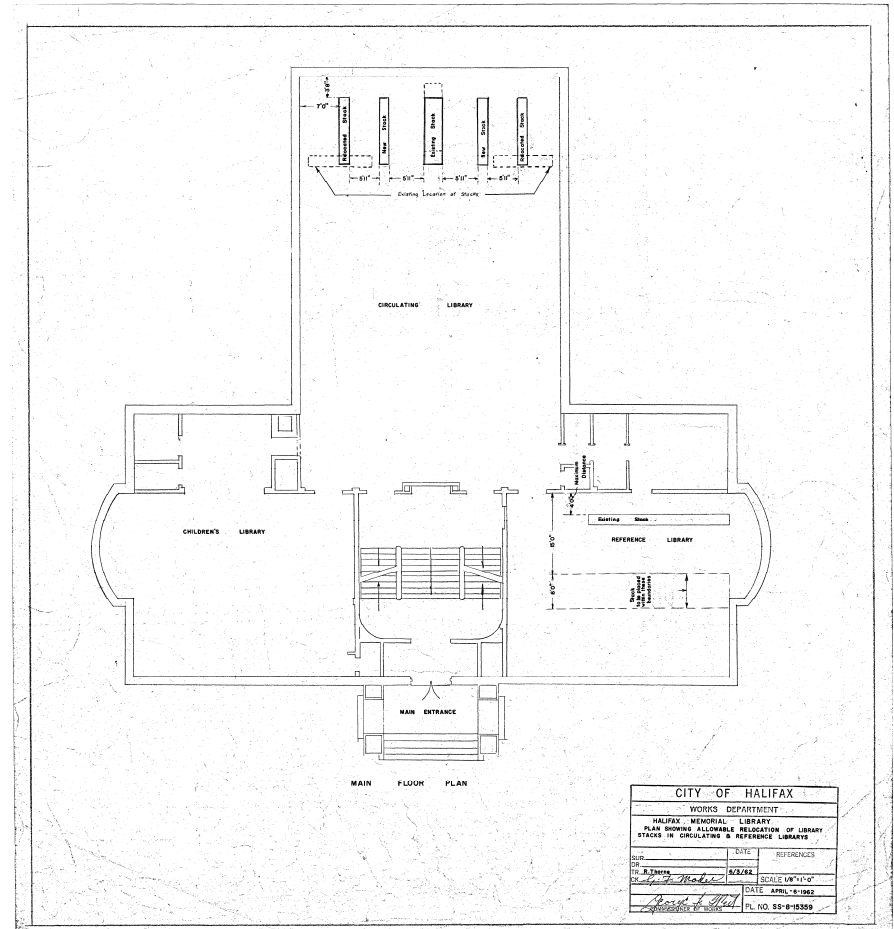
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## Construction Type

- Steel and concrete structure
- 'T' shaped floorplan
- Limestone and Aluminium façade



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## Architectural Style

- Modern Classical Revival (Neo-Classical) Style
- Good Example of mid-century institutional architecture
- A very late example of such architecture in Halifax

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## Memorial Aspects

- Statue of Sir Winston Churchill
- Dedication Plaque
- Books of Remembrance (moved to Central Library)
- Murals (Moved to Admiralty House Museum)



# Surrounding Context



## The adjacent historic buildings include:

- St. David's Church (Victorian Gothic Revival, 1868)
- St. Mary's Boys School (Second Empire, 1904)
- St. Mary's Girls School (Second Empire, 1889)
- St. Mary's Basilica (Gothic Revival, 1829)
- Halifax Provincial Courthouse (Classical Revival, 1862)
- Dalhousie Medjuck Building (Classical Revival, 1909)

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## Character Defining Elements

- mature trees, diagonal walkway and publicly accessible open space of Grafton Park;
- stone retaining wall circling the site;
- statue of Winston Churchill erected in 1979;
- mass gravesite of the early town and poor asylum;
- commemorative associations with the Second World War; and
- Modern-Classical library building with limestone façade, two semi-circular bays and decorative central entrance with classical detailing and inscriptions.



### SCORING SUMMARY

PROPERTY	DATE REVIEWED	REVIEWER
5381 Spring Garden Road, Halifax	November 27, 2019	Heritage Advisory Committee

Criterion	Highest possible Score	Score Awarded
1. a) Age of Site <b>or</b> 1. b) Continuity of Use	25	25
2. Historical Importance	25	15
3. Degree of Intactness	10	8
4. a) Relationship to Surrounding Area <b>or</b> 4. b) Community Value	10	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>57</b>

Score necessary for designation  
Heritage Property Program

35

Designation Recommended?

x YES

NO



# Recommendation

The Heritage Advisory Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council:

Approve the request to include 5381 Spring Garden Road in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality, as shown on Map 1 of the September 9, 2019 staff report, as a municipal heritage area under the Heritage Property Act.