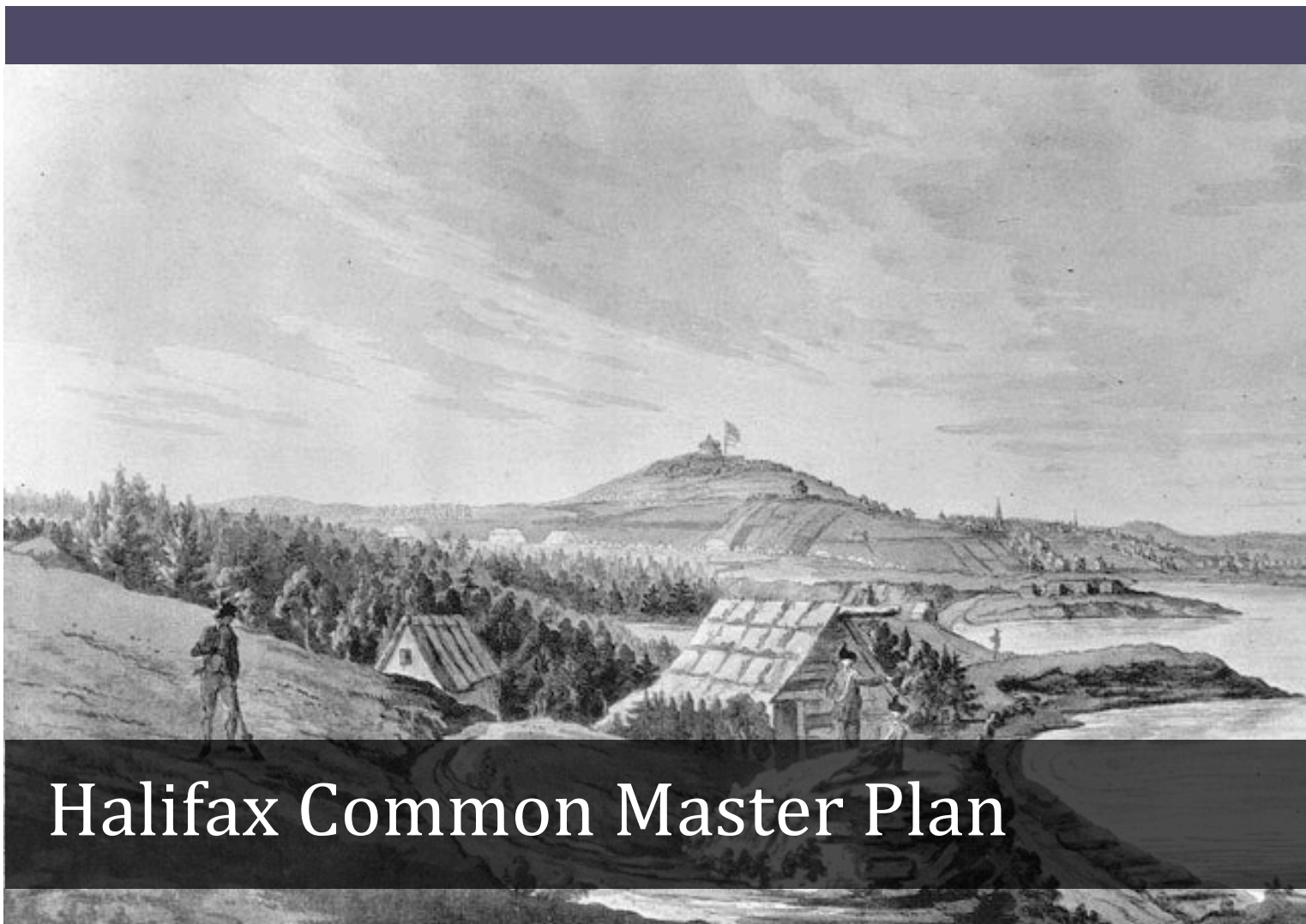


# APPENDIX C

Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment



# Halifax Common Master Plan

Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment  
Heritage Research Permit A2017NS091

March 28, 2018

Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited  
109 John Stewart Drive, Dartmouth, NS B2W 4J7

# Halifax Common Master Plan Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment

Heritage Research Permit A2017NS0091

Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited  
Project No. 17-028.1

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*Cover Image: Captain Edward Hicks' South Aspect of Halifax from near Point Pleasant Park, ca. 1780. Looking northward over the Halifax Common.*

## Executive Summary

In October 2017, Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited was contracted by HTFC Planning & Design to conduct an archaeological resource impact assessment for the public and institutional land within the Common, as part of the Halifax Common Master Plan. The Master Plan is intended to guide future decisions on the Common's parks and open spaces. Davis MacIntyre & Associates was retained to conduct a desktop-based archaeological resource impact assessment of the Common lands with a goal to determine the potential for archaeological resources within the study area, to compile an inventory of known archaeological resources within the Common lands, to determine the extent of previous disturbance, and to provide recommendations for further mitigation, if necessary.

The assessment included a detailed historic background study of the Common as well as consultation of previous archaeological assessment reports and records of known archaeological resources within and near the Common lands. Land use and occupation of the peninsula and, indeed, the Common extends back to time immemorial when the Mi'kmaq and their ancestors hunted, fished, gathered and camped on these lands. Ceremonial use and burial is also known to have occurred in the near vicinity of the Common lands. In historic times, the Mi'kmaq had a notable presence on the peninsula and it is well established that they hunted and fished on what would eventually become the Halifax Common, and likely had short-term or seasonal encampments here as well.

When the first British settlers arrived in 1749 and began building the town, what was to become the Common was a swampy wasteland situated outside the town proper. In 1760, the government laid out these lands for the perpetual use of the public and was intended to be open pasturage. Though the Common underwent several changes and developments since that time, the land at the north end (what is now known as the North and Central Common) was reserved for the military and, with the exception of temporary barracks in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was largely undeveloped until park improvements (including the aquatic facilities) were made and Queen Elizabeth High School was constructed in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Much of the South Common north of Spring Garden Road was used as a public dumping ground up until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century while the area to the south of the road was slowly being developed, both privately and institutionally. Camp Hill remained largely under the purview of the military until 1843 when the first public cemetery outside the old town's plot was established here. The remaining northern portion of Camp Hill was left largely open until the construction of the first hospital on the site in 1917. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the Nova Scotia Horticultural gardens were laid out on what is now the Halifax Public Gardens and the Gardens have undergone several improvements over the

past 175 years. It also suffered considerable damage in 2003 as a result of Hurricane Juan.

Common land around Spring Garden quickly passed into private hands in the early 19th century and was not a part of this assessment. The remainder of the South Common was remained relatively open until the late-19th century. The Exhibition Tower, several city works buildings and open land were gradually replaced with a variety of public and private institutions, precursors to the hospitals and university spaces within the South Common boundaries today. These institutions included the Poor House, City Hospital, Convent of Sacred Heart and Dalhousie University.

Developments and archaeological assessments over the past decade and a half have attested to the extensive use of the Common as a 19<sup>th</sup> century dumping ground, particularly in the area of the Central Common and north end of the South Common (north of Spring Garden Road). These developments, in tandem with earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century developments (Queen Elizabeth High School, Halifax Infirmary, Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History and Citadel High School, for example) have had a significant impact on extant archaeological resources. The original course of Freshwater Brook can no longer be traced as it was diverted several times in the late 19<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and, therefore, vestiges of potential First Nations land use on the Common are very difficult to locate or predict.

A large sample of artifacts have been collected from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century public dump on the Common and deposits will continue to be unearthed with each shovel or excavator bucket that comes out of the ground. Some of this material has been disturbed several times through late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century improvements and developments and, therefore, its significance as an archaeological resource in those areas is low. However, pockets of original deposits have been encountered throughout the study area and there are areas that remain relatively undisturbed. The depth of intact archaeological deposits varies as much as the depth of previous disturbance so that each new development requires assessing on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, it is recommended that any further ground disturbance on the Common in those areas, and to those depths, not previously disturbed be subjected to an archaeological assessment that includes, at a minimum, monitoring by a qualified archaeologist.

South of Spring Garden Road, much of the original Common is extensively developed, including the IWK & Victoria General Hospital sites and Dalhousie University's Carleton Campus. In these heavily developed areas, the potential for archaeological resources is low, although there is more moderate potential in areas that have been less disturbed, such as sidewalks, open spaces and parking lots. Of particular note are the Victoria General parking lot and Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre parking lot, which have been evaluated to be of high potential for encountering archaeological resources. It is recommended that further ground disturbance on the South Common's institution properties within areas that have not been previously developed (such as parking lots,

sidewalks and parks) should be subject to an archaeological assessment that includes, at minimum, monitoring by a qualified archaeologist.

A priority of the Master Plan is to develop a schematic design for the Central Common including redevelopment of the existing outdoor aquatic facilities, playground and green space. No previous archaeological assessments for the Central Common have been conducted. However, maps of the existing facilities and underground services suggest that these developments have undoubtedly had a significant impact on the original course of Freshwater Brook, the Egg Pond (formerly Black Duck Pond) and any potential archaeological resources that may have existed here. However, the potential may still exist for pockets of both intact and disturbed archaeological deposits surrounding these modern features. Intact archaeological resources may still remain beneath the grassed areas as well as beneath the playground, basketball court, baseball field, tennis courts, and asphalt walkways. Therefore, it is recommended that any ground disturbance in the Central Common that extends beyond the horizontal or vertical levels of previous disturbance be monitored by a qualified archaeologist and that any intact and significant archaeological resources be properly mitigated. The preferred method of mitigation in all instances where archaeological resources are expected to be impacted is avoidance. However, in those instances where avoidance is not possible, mitigation may include full-scale excavation, artifact/feature sampling, or salvage collection and, in all cases, full-scale recording of any archaeological deposits and/or features. The level mitigation is to be determined in consultation with the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage and is dependent upon the significance and integrity of the archaeological resource.

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## 1.0 Introduction

In October 2017, Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited was contracted by HTFC Planning & Design to conduct an archaeological resource impact assessment for the public and institutional land within the Common, as part of the Halifax Common Master Plan. The Master Plan is intended to guide future decisions on the Common's parks and open spaces and to "develop a plan that seeks to balance the Halifax Common's historic character, its use as a public space, and its strategic resource of both passive and active recreational spaces in the urban core."<sup>1</sup> The final Master Plan is intended to provide:

- A Policy and Planning Framework to guide decisions for management and use of the lands, both municipally and publicly owned;
- A Parks and Open Space Plan for the Common focussed on the green space within the Common and its surrounding neighbourhoods;
- Strategic Renewal Action Plans to identify immediate and long term needs and objectives for the municipally owned parks and open spaces (specifically the North and Central Common, the Wanderers Grounds/Bell Road Block, Victoria Park and Camp Hill Cemetery); and
- A Schematic Design for the Central Common including the redevelopment of the existing and aging outdoor aquatic facilities and associated buildings, playground and green space.

Several previous archaeological assessments have been conducted for portions of the study area and surrounding environ since 2004.

The purpose of the current archaeological assessment was to determine the potential for archaeological resources within the study area, to compile an inventory of known archaeological resources within the Common lands, to determine the extent of previous disturbance, and to provide recommendations for further mitigation, if necessary.

The assessment was conducted under Category C Heritage Research Permit A2017NS091. This report conforms to the standards required by the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage under the Special Places Protection Act (*R.S., c. 438, s. 1*).

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<sup>1</sup> Halifax Regional Municipality, 2017.

## 2.0 Study Area

The study area is located within the urban core of Halifax and encompasses public and private institutional lands. A significant portion of the Common is publicly owned by Halifax Regional Municipality and other levels of government, while a smaller portion is institutionally owned and includes lands occupied by the Nova Scotia Health Authority and Dalhousie University. For the purposes of the Halifax Common Master Plan, the Common extends from Cunard Street in the north to South Street in the south and is bounded by Robie Street on the west and North Park Street, The Citadel National Historic Site and South Park Street on the east (Figure 2.0-1). Within the original Halifax Common that was laid out in 1760, a block of land on Spring Garden Road and Carlton Street is now privately owned and is not included in this study.

For the purposes of the archaeological inventory and assessment, the study area is divided into sections based on their geographical extent:

- The North Common – The North Common is defined by Cunard Street on the north, Robie Street on the west, North Park Street on the east and the Central Common on the south.
- The Central Common – a triangle bounded by Cogswell Street, Bell Road and Trollope Street.
- The South Common – from Bell Road/Trollope Street to South Street. This includes the institutional lands of Citadel High School, the Halifax Infirmary and the Museum of Natural History as well as the open green spaces of the Wanderers Grounds, Camp Hill Cemetery and the Halifax Public Gardens. On the south side of Spring Garden Road, it includes Victoria Park, Dalhousie University Carleton Campus, the Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre, the IWK Health Centre and the Victoria General site. It does not include the lands on the south side of Camp Hill Cemetery, Spring Garden Road and Summer Street or on the north side of College Street and intersected by Carlton Street, which are privately owned.

## 2.1 Natural Environment

The development area is located in an urban setting within Natural Theme Region #833, Eastern Shore Beaches (Figure 2.0-2). The coastal region is characterized by an indented submerged coastline and is divided into headlands separated by long inlets, most of which are drowned river estuaries. The underlying soils of peninsular Halifax and Dartmouth are predominantly slate-derived shale loam Bridgewater soils. Historically, the slate that characterizes bedrock outcrops in this area was used as building material and can still be seen in many of the extant nineteenth century constructions such as Alexander Keith's Brewery on Lower Water Street in Halifax. Because of continued

urban expansion and development since the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, many aspects of the natural history of this region including floral and faunal sustainability, no longer apply.<sup>2</sup>

In the early Holocene, Halifax and the harbour were much different than what we see today. At about 12,000 years ago when the last glaciers retreated from the region, much of Halifax Harbour was characterized by a series of lakes connected by an ancestral Sackville River system. The former marine shoreline was located about 20 kilometers off Chebucto Head, about 65 to 70 meters below current sea levels. The Bedford Basin was occupied by at least three connected lakes - one in Bedford Bay, one in the Basin proper, and one in Fairview Cove. Palaeoshorelines have been identified in these areas by marine geologists. Before about 5,800 years ago, Bedford Basin existed as a lake for about 6,000 years and boulder berms located during surveys of the basin indicate the presence of a number of small islands on the west side and a few on the east side as well. At the same time, a bedrock sill (Wellesley Rock) was exposed between Bedford Bay and the Basin proper. Part of the Sackville River system cascaded over the rock ledge creating a waterfall. This area holds great potential for early Holocene archaeological sites potentially dating back as early as the Palaeo-Indian period (11,500 to 9,000 years BP) as this area would have been favourable for fishing and the rock ledge may have provided a convenient short cut across the Basin. At 5,800 years ago, the islands, lakeshores and the rock ledge became submerged and Halifax Harbour was created.<sup>3</sup>

The peninsula itself has changed greatly since the earliest days of Halifax's settlement. At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, there were approximately 78 kilometers of streams flowing across the peninsula and into the Northwest Arm or Halifax Harbour. These streams were, in many cases, founded by wetlands (about 83 ha in total) that have since been diverted or infilled.<sup>4</sup> Freshwater Brook was likely one of the most substantial watercourses on the peninsula and originated in the north end, somewhere below Needham Hill and flowed northward into Fairview Cove, eastward near the dockyard and southward through the North and Central Common and Public Gardens before eventually reaching the Harbour near Inglis and Barrington Streets. Freshwater Brook appears to have run through Griffin's Pond, which is one of the few surface indications of the watercourse today. Late 18<sup>th</sup> century maps indicate that the brook may have been under South Park Street, though by the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, it is shown flowing under what is now Brenton Street. The course may have changed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as significant changes were occurring in the north as the Common (which then included the North Common, present day Wanderers Grounds and the Public Gardens) were being infilled with garbage.

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<sup>2</sup> Davis and Browne 1996:204-205.

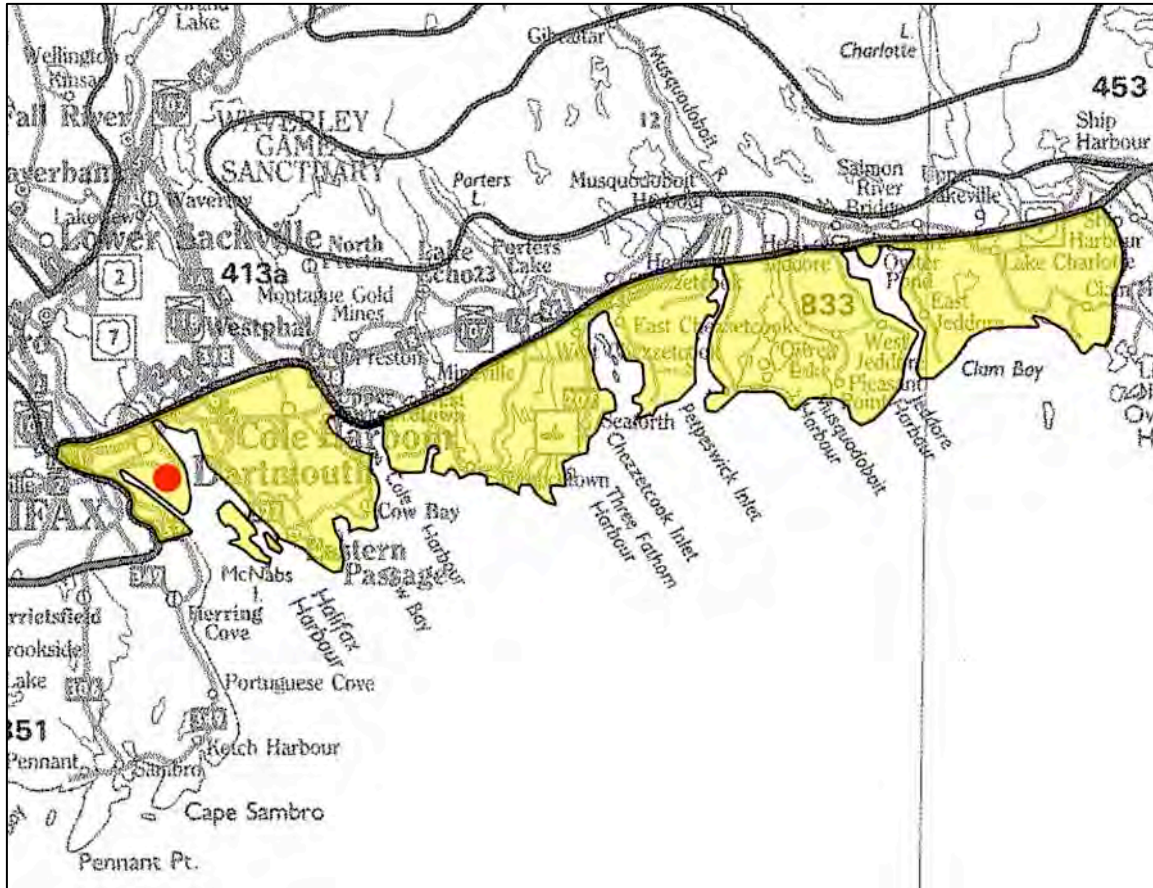
<sup>3</sup> Fader 2005:140-142.

<sup>4</sup> Reid 2012.





**Figure 2.0-1: Overview of the Halifax Common study area.**



**Figure 2.0-2: Theme Region #833 - Eastern Shore Beaches - with the approximate location of the Halifax Common highlighted in red.**

### 3.0 Methodology

A historic background study was conducted by Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited in October and November 2017, which included consultation of historic maps and manuscripts and published literature. The reports of previous archaeological resource impact assessments conducted for the Halifax Common and for several of the surrounding properties were also reviewed. These include:

- Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History Parking Lot Expansion (A2002NS039),
- Archaeological Salvage Excavations at the Halifax Public Gardens (A2004NS032),
- Halifax Public Gardens: Archaeological During the 2004 Restoration (A2004NS051),
- Halifax Public Gardens (A2006NS010),
- Bengal Lancers New Riding Paddock (A2006NS037),
- Citadel High School Steam Line Installation, Halifax (A2006NS079, A2007NS004),
- Dalhousie Clinical Research Centre Project (A2007NS062),

- Halifax Armoury Exterior Maintenance (A2009NS093),
- Halifax Armoury Soil Sampling Test Pit Excavation (A2010NS043),
- Canada Winter Games Speed Skating Oval Halifax North Common (A2010NS096),
- Halifax Armoury Restoration (A2011NS023),
- Dalhousie University LeMarchant Street Mixed Use Facility (A2011NS126),
- Halifax Public Gardens: Excavation of French Drain near Horticultural Hall (A2012NS169),
- North Park Street Roundabouts Design Plan (A2013NS055),
- North Park Street Roundabout, Phase I (A2014NS070),
- North Park Street Roundabout, Phase II (A2015NS014 and Parks Canada Agency Research and Collection Permit HDC-2015-18839),
- Wanderers Grounds Light and Signage Installation (A2017NS014, in progress),
- Carlton Terrace Development (A2017NS071),
- Griffin's Pond, Halifax Public Gardens (A2017NS088, under review), and
- Where's the Woodlot: A History of the Halifax Common (Banks, 2016).

The Maritime Archaeological Resource Inventory, a database of known archaeological resources in the Maritime region, was searched in an effort to understand prior archaeological research and known archaeological resources neighbouring the study area. The Chief and Consultation Coordinator at Sipekne'katik First Nation as well as the Archaeological Research Division at Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn (KMKNO-ARD) were contacted on 01 November 2017 in order to elicit information regarding past and traditional land use in the study area. Finally, a reconnaissance of the study area was conducted.

### **3.1 Maritime Archaeological Resource Inventory**

The Maritime Archaeological Resource Inventory was consulted in October 2017 to determine if known archaeological resources were present in or near the study area. Several archaeological sites have been recorded in peninsular Halifax dating from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Although it is known from historic accounts and oral tradition that First Nations peoples were present on the peninsula during and prior to European contact, very little archaeological evidence of their presence has been recorded on the peninsula to date. A few isolated finds have recently been made at the former site of the Presbyterian Church of Saint David's church hall on Brunswick Street, though no evidence of intact First Nations features or sites was encountered. Several shell middens have been recorded on the west side of North West Arm, along the shores of the Basin, on McNab's Island and on the Dartmouth side of the Harbour.

At the south end of the original Common, archaeological assessments have been conducted on the Dalhousie campus. Excavation in front of the Dalhousie Clinical Centre

on University Avenue revealed a mid-19<sup>th</sup> century midden, likely associated with one of the institutions that arose in the area from 1849 onwards.<sup>5</sup>

Archaeological investigations inside of the Public Gardens have taken place since 2004 and have identified 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century artifacts, as well as parts of the city dump and structures associated with the early gardens. Monitoring at the Citadel High School property for the installation of a steam line in 2006 and 2007 identified a mortared stone culvert. The culvert was set into the bedrock and may have been related to the diversion or channelling of Freshwater Brook. Archaeological monitoring at the Public Gardens in 2008 revealed a ceramic pipe used to channel and divert Freshwater Brook. The 2008 monitoring indicated that the outflow for Freshwater Brook runs east to South Park Street, where it is assumed to join with a sewer running north-south.<sup>6</sup>

Upgrades at the Wanderers Grounds field in 2017 and excavations related to the new riding paddock for the Bengal Lancers in 2006, have resulted in a large collection of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century material, likely related to past infilling and the use of land as a city dump. The 2006 monitoring work also identified a concrete footing of a building dating to the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century,<sup>7</sup> while the 2017 monitoring also identified a stone box drain or sewer running roughly north-south across the field, likely relating to early efforts to drain Freshwater Brook underground.<sup>8</sup>

In the north end of the study area, archaeological monitoring associated with the construction of the North Park Street Roundabouts have identified archaeological features and artifacts. These include intact portions of residential facades, middens, and nineteenth century civil infrastructure (drains and sewers), tramlines, a late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century midden, as well as disturbed remains related to post-1917 Halifax Explosion tenements. Construction of the Emera Oval infrastructure has also identified 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century infilling events and associated artifacts.<sup>9</sup>

Monitoring has also taken place around the Armouries, where 19<sup>th</sup> century artifacts and four canons were found near the building foundation.<sup>10</sup>

Several other historic sites are located near the study area. A mid to late nineteenth century midden (refuse dump), privy and an associated structure were uncovered at the corner of Birmingham Street and Dresden Row in 1995 during excavations for an extension to Winchester's Bridal. The remains of the 1865 County Jail and four other features were located on Spring Garden Road under the Provincial Law Courts parking

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<sup>5</sup> Davis Archaeological Consultants Limited December 2007.

<sup>6</sup> Davis Archaeological Consultants Ltd. July 2007; Northeast Archaeological Research 2004; Black Spruce Heritage Services 2005; 2008.

<sup>7</sup> Davis MacIntyre & Associates Ltd. 2017; Davis Archaeological Consultants Ltd. 2006.

<sup>8</sup> Davis MacIntyre & Associates Ltd. 2017.

<sup>9</sup> CRM Group Ltd. 2011.

<sup>10</sup> CRM Group Ltd. 2012.

lot, and the remains of the Bellevue House were located and mitigated at the site of the new Halifax Central Library.

Numerous archaeological sites have been recorded within or adjacent to the original town plot of Halifax, east of the Citadel Hill and several finds have been reported in Point Pleasant Park as well, the latter of which are related to the military occupation of the park as well as residential land use. More archaeological finds have been reported at the current site of the Trillium condominium on South Park Street and in front of the Dalhousie University Clinical Research Centre on University Avenue where evidence of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century occupation and land use have been unearthed.

Other known resources in close proximity to the study area include several military installations in Point Pleasant Park, as well as features and artifacts related to the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century British occupation in the Park. At the intersection of Barrington and Inglis Streets, the remains of the 18<sup>th</sup> century "Kissing Bridge", a stone bridge over the outlet of Freshwater Brook, were recorded during the Halifax Wastewater Treatment project. Other nearby sites include the Trillium site on South Park Street where several 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial and residential features were unearthed during construction of a condominium complex. At least eighteen other historic period sites have been recorded on the peninsula.

## **3.2 Historic Background**

### **3.2.1 First Nations Occupation**

Spatially and geographically, First Nations land use on the Halifax peninsula is not considered in the same sense that European occupation is recorded in historic times. Colonialism has had a significant impact on Mi'kmaq lifeways but prior to European contact, the Mi'kmaq and their ancestors had a very dynamic relationship with the land which was reflected in their language, legends, songs, dances and oral tradition. The landscape was viewed as "sentient, ever-changing, and in a continual process of becoming".<sup>11</sup> Therefore, the euro-centric view of the Common as a discrete and definitive land parcel does not reflect the Mi'kmaq world view and therefore, references to site-specific pre-contact First Nations land use from the first-hand perspective of the Mi'kmaq (through oral tradition) are difficult to ascertain. However, historic references by Europeans do exist and First Nations land use and occupation is reflected in the archaeological record.

Nova Scotia has been home to the Mi'kmaq and their ancestors for at least 11,500 years. A legacy of experience built over millennia shaped cultural beliefs and practices,

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<sup>11</sup> Sable and Francis 2012:18.

creating an intimate relationship between populations and the land itself. The complexity of this history, culturally and ecologically, is still being explored.

The earliest period of occupation in Nova Scotia is *Sa'qiwe'k L'nu'k* (the Ancient People) or the Paleo-Indian period (11,500 – 9,000BP). The changing ecology following deglaciation allowed the entrance of large herds of migratory caribou into Nova Scotia, followed by Paleoindian groups from the south.<sup>12</sup> Currently, the Debert/Belmont Sites provide the only significant evidence of Paleo-Indian settlement in the province. Commonly believed to be big-game hunters, research is now aimed at exploring the diverse subsistence patterns that may have supported populations, and what adaptations were made when the environment shifted once again in the early Holocene.<sup>13</sup>

Succeeding the *Sa'qiwe'k L'nu'k* is the *Mu Awsami Kejikawe'k L'nu'k* (the Not so Recent People) or the Archaic Period (9,000-3,000 BP). This time saw a reorientation to a more maritime subsistence, with settlement pivoting more towards coastal areas, lakes and bountiful riverine resources.<sup>14</sup> Remnants of these sites along the coast have largely been engulfed by rising seas or battered by wind and wave, though interior sites are increasingly being discovered.<sup>15</sup> Ground stone tools, specialized for wood-working, appear at this time and may have been used to create dug-out canoes. Numerous traditions and distinct technologies have been documented throughout Maine and the Atlantic provinces. A growing catalogue of exotic cultural components demonstrates that groups within Nova Scotia were engaged in spheres of interaction spanning hundreds of kilometers. Unfortunately, a lack of formally excavated sites within Nova Scotia still obscures the degree to which these traditions were present.

A transitional period known as the Susquehanna tradition is found in the Maritime Peninsula following the Late Archaic period. It has been dated as early as 4000 BP. Mike Deal characterizes the Susquehanna by their cremation burials and a distinct tool-making tradition utilizing soapstone vessels and felsite rock.<sup>16</sup> There is general agreement in the archaeological community that the appearance of the Susquehanna tradition corresponds with the migration of a people through the northeast United States, though there is debate over the scope of this migration. Findings show a spread of the Susquehanna tradition from its homeland of the Savannah River Complex, through the American Northeast, and to the closest shores of the Maritimes.

The debate over the scope of the migration is coupled with the varied opinions of the Susquehanna traditions influence on Maritime Late Archaic people and traditions. There are those in the archaeological community that argue for the Susquehanna tradition

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<sup>12</sup> Newby et al. 2005: 151

<sup>13</sup> Lothrop et al. 2011: 562

<sup>14</sup> Tuck 1975

<sup>15</sup> Deal et al. 2006

<sup>16</sup> Deal 2001a.

forming the basis for the Early Woodland cultures and perhaps constituting an ancestral group. Others argue against a legacy of Susquehanna influence, seeing a progression of local technological innovation into the Early Woodland period and a Maritime Archaic ancestry.

By the *Kejikawe'k L'nu'k* (the Recent People) or Woodland/Ceramic period (3,000-500 BP), the Mi'kmaq were a maritime people.<sup>17</sup> Known Woodland/Ceramic sites concentrate along coasts shorelines, and navigable watercourses. Migration of ideas and people introduced new worldviews and technologies from groups originating in places like northern New England and the Great Lakes area, to local populations, including the earliest ceramic forms. Harvesting of marine molluscs and shellfish appears in this period, and substantial shell-middens have gifted archaeologists with well-preserved records of these past lives.<sup>18</sup> Fish weirs populating the province's rivers and streams speak to the importance of migrating fish species to Mi'kmaq life. Terrestrial hunting and foraging was practiced with varying degrees of intensity depending on seasonality and region. A generally stable cultural form is believed to have developed by 2,000 BP, forming the way of life first encountered by Europeans arriving on our shores.<sup>19</sup>

Mi'kmaw life was substantially altered in the *Kiskukewe'k L'nu'k* (Today's People) or Contact Period (500 BP- Present). Trade and European settlement introduced change and upheaval to the traditional way of First Nation life. Mobile hunting and gathering still defined Mi'kmaw life, with identity residing within family households.<sup>20</sup> Trading posts and fishing villages became intersections of European and Mi'kmaq interaction, affecting traditional seasonal rounds and access to land. The hunting of fur-bearing mammals intensified to satisfy the mutual exchange of skins for European goods (Whitehead 1993:89).<sup>21</sup> It is not accurate, however, to say that Mi'kmaq *adopted* European goods and culture, but rather *adapted* it. The Mi'kmaq remained an influential social and political force well into the 18<sup>th</sup> century, forming a triadic narrative of contention with the English and French. However, disease, conflict, and alienation from the land wreaked a ruinous effect on the Mi'kmaq by the 19<sup>th</sup> century, pushing people to the margins of colonial society.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Davis 1993: 100

<sup>18</sup> Davis 2005: 18

<sup>19</sup> Wicken 2004: 26

<sup>20</sup> Ibid: 30

<sup>21</sup> Whitehead 1993: 89

<sup>22</sup> Reid 2009

**Table 3.2-1: Mi'kmaw/Archaeological Cultural Periods in Nova Scotia**

Mi'kmaq Period	Archaeological Period	Years
<b>Sa'qiwe'k L'nu'k</b> (the Ancient People)	Paleo-Indian	11,500 – 9,000 BP
<b>Mu Awsami Kejikawe'k L'nu'k</b> (the Not so Recent People)	Archaic	9,000 –3,000 BP
<b>Kejikawe'k L'nu'k</b> (the Recent People)	Woodland/Ceramic Period	3,000 –500 BP
<b>Kiskukewe'k L'nu'k</b> (Today's People)	Contact	500 BP – present

The Mi'kmaq inhabited the territory known as *Mi'kma'ki* or *Megumaage*, which included all of Nova Scotia including Cape Breton, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick (north of the Saint John River), the Gaspé region of Quebec, part of Maine and southwestern Newfoundland (Figure 3.2-1). Halifax is part of the Mi'kmaw territory known as *Sipekni'katik* meaning "wild potato area". For centuries, the Mi'kmaq had encampments along the shores of the Bedford Basin, Dartmouth, Eastern Passage, and McNab's Island in the district known as *Eskikea'kik* or "skin dressers territory".<sup>23</sup> The Mi'kmaw name for the Halifax Harbour is *Kjipuktuk* or *Kuowa'qmiktuk* meaning "great harbour".<sup>24</sup> However, Piers writes in his communications with Jerry Lonecloud, that *Gwowaqmicktook* refers to "white pine forest" that was a common landscape feature of peninsular Halifax.<sup>25</sup>

A single artifact representing the Palaeo period was discovered in Dartmouth at the height of land over looking Red Bridge pond. This was an isolated find of a single bifacial preform characterising of the earliest known occupation of Halifax. This find suggests the possibility of further undiscovered Palaeo sites along the former shorelines of the outlet of the former Glacial Lake Shubenacadie on either side of the harbour. Sites representing spring and summer encampments of both Archaic period and Woodland/Ceramic period have been encountered on peninsular Halifax as well as at McNab's Island, Bedford and Dartmouth, suggesting the area was of importance to the Mi'kmaw throughout the precontact period.

<sup>23</sup> Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, 2007:11.

<sup>24</sup> Pjila'si Mi'kma'ki: Mi'kmaw Place Names Digital Atlas

<sup>25</sup> Piers 1879.





**Figure 3.2-1: Map of the Mi'kmaq districts.**<sup>26</sup>

First Nations settlement on the Halifax peninsula may have been limited in the area now occupied by the downtown core, where the original topography was rocky and sloped. Other areas, such as the Halifax Common, were originally wetland and there is a tradition that Mi'kmaq hunted moose in these swampy areas. They also hunted ducks and fished in the watercourses available on the peninsula,<sup>27</sup> most of which have since disappeared through the development of the City of Halifax.<sup>28</sup> Where Citadel Hill meets the west side of Brunswick Street, historian Thomas Raddall reported that a "small stone adze of blueish slate" was found.<sup>29</sup>

As the study area is located within the traditional territory of Sipekne'katik, the Chief and Consultation Coordinator of the First Nation were contacted on 01 November 2017 to inquire whether past or traditional Mi'kmaq land use is know in or near the study area. Likewise, the Archaeological Research Division at Kwilmu'kw Maw-klusuaqn Negotiation Office (KMKNO-ARD) was also contacted on 01 November 2017.

<sup>26</sup> Adapted from Confederacy of Mainland Mi'kmaq, 2007:11.

<sup>27</sup> Raddall 1993:2.

<sup>28</sup> Reid 2012.

<sup>29</sup> Raddall Papers, Dalhousie University Archives, MS2.202.F.5.D.22

A response was received from the Consultation Coordinator at Sipekne'katik First Nation on 22 November 2017. According to their databases, there are ceremonial sites and overnight sites located in the Halifax Common area, though no specific information was given. It was also acknowledged that this information does not imply that there are not, or were not, other First Nations activities in the study area.<sup>30</sup>

A response from KMKNO-ARD was received on 6 November 2017. Twenty-one traditional use sites have been reported within a 1-kilometer radius of the study area. These include eleven ceremonial sites, seven campsites, two fishing sites and one reported burial site.<sup>31</sup> KMKNO staff reported several historic references to Mi'kmaq land use on the peninsula of Halifax. In 1687-88, the sieur de Gargas collected a census of Acadie and listed thirty-six Mi'kmaq living in 7 wigwams in the Halifax area.<sup>32</sup> In 1699 the Jesuit missionary Father Louis Pierre Thury is reported to have visited Mi'kmaq people in Halifax Harbour to persuade them to remove to a mission between Halifax and Shubenacadie.<sup>33</sup> In the same year, Dièreville reported passing a Mi'kmaw "hut" on the shore of Halifax Harbour while hunting small game and sailors from the ship also reported meeting two Mi'kmaw at a spring somewhere near the harbour.<sup>34</sup> Two hundred to 300 Mi'kmaq are reported to have met with the Governor in 1701 in the Halifax area.<sup>35</sup> When the British arrived in 1749, the Mi'kmaq warned them that if they did not leave Halifax there would be war.<sup>36</sup> By the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was reported that "A few Indians live in the vicinity of Halifax, who chiefly get their living by fishing".<sup>37</sup>

In 1843, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Joseph Howe, reported that the Mi'kmaq resided in the Halifax-Dartmouth area all year but particularly in the summer months.<sup>38</sup> When Congressional minister Rev. John Seccombe visited Halifax in October 1759, he recorded in his journal that the Mi'kmaq came alongside his vessel with ducks and "penguins" (possibly auks).<sup>39</sup>

KMKNO staff also report that there was a stream that ran down Buckingham Street (where Scotia Square is now located) and that the Mi'kmaq used the area surrounding the stream for trapping.<sup>40</sup> The area around George Street was also for trapping and

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<sup>30</sup> Copage, pers. comm. 22 November 2017.

<sup>31</sup> MacLean, pers. comm. 06 November 2017.

<sup>32</sup> Dalhousie Archives, MS-6-13.

<sup>33</sup> Ingalls and McGrath 1998:9.

<sup>34</sup> Dièreville 1933:76.

<sup>35</sup> Dalhousie Archives MS-6-13; Ingalls and McGrath 1998:10.

<sup>36</sup> Upton (trans) 1888:17-19.

<sup>37</sup> Marsden, 1816.

<sup>38</sup> Journal and Proceedings of the House of Assembly 1843:6.

<sup>39</sup> DesBrisay 1967:258.

<sup>40</sup> Raddall n.d., Dalhousie University Archives.

Mary Noel's grandfather set mink traps somewhere on the peninsula in the early to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>41</sup>

Specific reference to the Common lands also exist in the KMKNO's research files and historic documents. Ruth Holmes Whitehead, former ethnologist at the Nova Scotia Museum, wrote that in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, the Mi'kmaq hunted beaver and duck at the Black Duck Pond (later known as the Egg Pond) on the Halifax Common.<sup>42</sup> The Egg Pond is now the site of the skateboard park in the Central Common. In the winter of 1846-47, it is reported that the Tomah family overwintered at Camp Hill making baskets and quillwork.<sup>43</sup>

The early cultural landscape of Halifax before the arrival of Europeans, and ever-expanding city development, was vastly different from what it is today. Encampments to seasonally fish trout and alewife would have lain at the mouths of streams that flowed into the harbour, and are now vanished under city streets. One such hidden watercourse, Freshwater Brook, flows beneath the North Common, through the Public Gardens and Victoria Park, down to the harbour near modern day Pleasant Street. Moose would have been hunted in the swamp that is now the Common, and wild duck would have been hunted in the boggy pools and lakes, of which only Griffin's Pond and the small pools in the Public Gardens survive. Much of the original Common grant would have been swampy and wet. A predictive model of the historic streams and wetlands lost due to development on peninsular Halifax was constructed by Mike Reid in 2012 and is based on Captain Charles Blaskowitz's 1784 map (Figure 3.2-2).

After the settling of Halifax in 1749, Mi'kmaq continued to live in and around Halifax, particularly in the summer months, and they continued to maintain a strong presence in and around the city (Figure 3.2-3).

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<sup>41</sup> Whitehead 2002 vol II:86 and Whitehead 2002 vol I:12.

<sup>42</sup> Whitehead 2002 vol I:13 and Whitehead 2002 vol I:63.

<sup>43</sup> Johnson 1977:34-35.



**Figure 3.2-2: Wetlands (purple) and streams (blue) on Charles Blaskowitz's 1784 map, based on research and analysis by Mike Reid, 2012.<sup>44</sup> The approximate location of the Common is bounded in red, with Freshwater Brook flowing through it.**



**Figure 3.2-3: Hibbert Newton Binney's watercolour of a Mi'kmaq encampment in Dartmouth c. 1812.<sup>45</sup>**

<sup>44</sup> Nova Scotia Department of Environment URL

### 3.2.2 Euro-Canadian Occupation

#### *The Development of a Public Common: The Common as Open Space*

When Halifax was founded by the British in 1749, a grid of the streets and city blocks was laid out, originally stretching north-south from Joseph Street (now Scotia Square) to Salter Street, and east-west from the harbour to just below the Citadel. By the middle of October of that year, shortly after the arrival of Halifax's European settlers, a rough barricade had been erected around the town. This barricade was composed of "felled trees, logs and birchwood". The following summer, a true palisade was erected, with five forts located at intervals along the fortifications. The forest was cleared 30 feet beyond the palisade to prevent potential attackers from using it for cover.<sup>46</sup>

The study area was located outside of the palisade and was not part of the original town of Halifax. In the early years of the town, settlement outside of the palisade was confined to some country tracks and a few cabins.<sup>47</sup> By the 1770s, most of the peninsula of Halifax had been cleared for farmland.<sup>48</sup>

By 1762, the palisade was mainly obsolete and the town was growing beyond the bounds of the palisade.<sup>49</sup> Two hundred and thirty-five acres of land for a common was surveyed on March 29th, 1760 "...for the use of the inhabitants of the town of Halifax as Common for ever,"<sup>50</sup> as a "perpetual Common for Pasturage, for the sole use and benefit of the said inhabitants."<sup>51</sup> The original Common grant was on undeveloped, largely swampy land behind or west of the city (Figure 3.2-4). The 1760 Common was bounded by the modern streets of Cunard, South, Robie and South Park and encompassed the study area, or as it was described at the time, bounded "Southerly by a common highway at the front of the lotts called the Justices lotts, Westerly on a highway at head of the five acre lotts of the middle division, Northerly on highway lying between said Common and the lands of Joshua Mauger, Esq., North Easterly on a highway lying between the Common and lotts granted in the North suburbs of Halifax, and Easterly on vacant lands ungranted, according to the plan annexed."<sup>52</sup> When the grant was formally proclaimed in 1763 by Lieutenant Governor and Commander-in-Chief Jonathan Belcher, this same description was used, and it also included the phrase, "And also five acres more," though it is not clear where these five acres were situated.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> Binney c. 1812.

<sup>46</sup> Piers 1947:1-3.

<sup>47</sup> Piers 1947:1-3.

<sup>48</sup> Fingard et al. 1999:22.

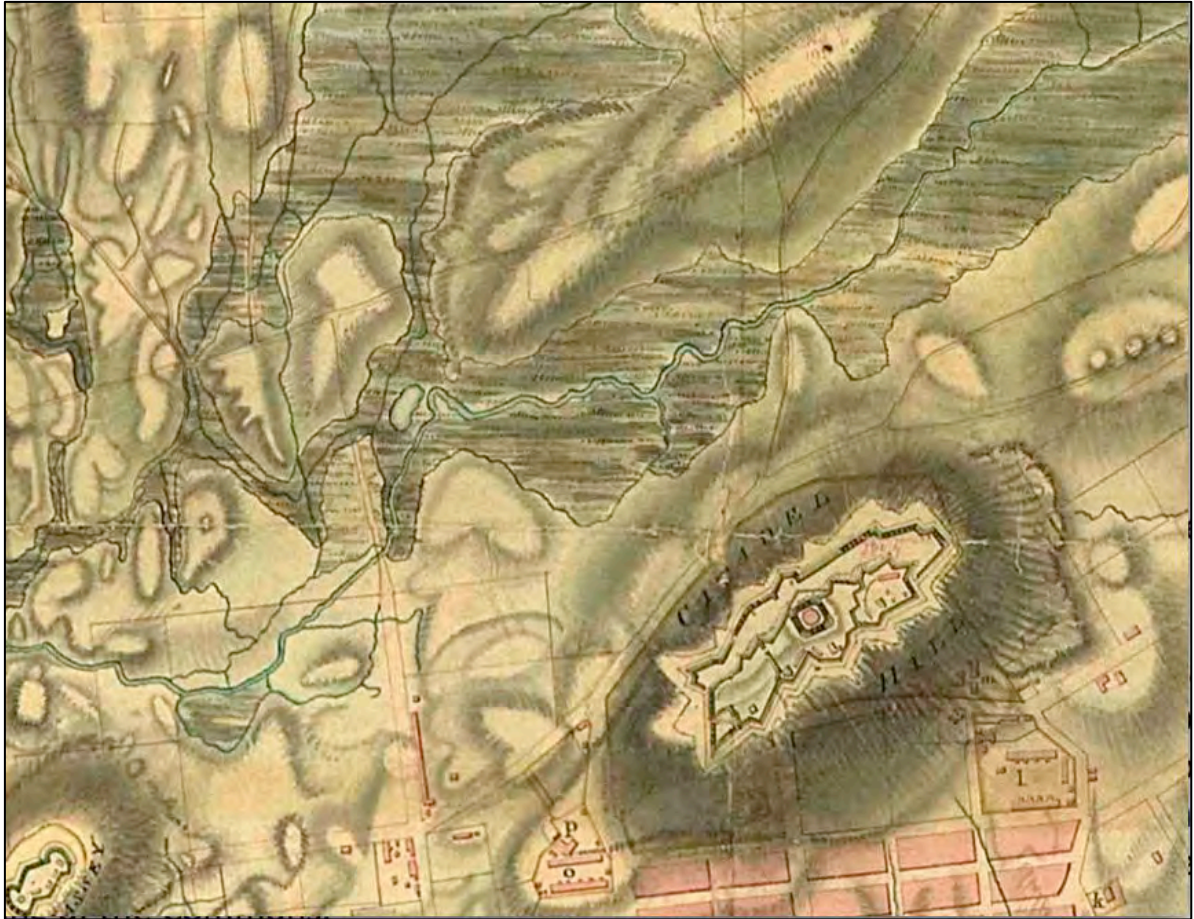
<sup>49</sup> Raddall 1993:63.

<sup>50</sup> Public Archive of Nova Scotia. Land Grant Book 3, pages 166 to 168.

<sup>51</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:19.

<sup>52</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:19-20.

<sup>53</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:20.



**Figure 3.2-4: Blaskowitz's 1784 map showing Freshwater Brook and surrounding wetland to the west of Citadel Hill, north at right.<sup>54</sup>**

An 1859 account of the Common indicates that a diagonal road between Pyke's Bridge (roughly at the corner of Sackville and Spring Garden, named for Mr. Pyke's ropewalk located on the north side of Spring Garden between Queen and Dresden Row) and Saint Andrew's Cross ("The Willow" at the intersection of Bell, Cogswell, Robie, and Quinpool) was laid "at an early date," this road presumably being Bell Road. A "substantial stone bridge across the [Freshwater] brook" was built near the middle of the course of this road,<sup>55</sup> placing it roughly southeast of where Trollope intersects Bell.

A map of the Common c. 1800 also depicts Freshwater Brook and associated wetland through most of the study area (Figure 3.2-5 and Figure 3.2-6). Additionally, the northeast corner of the Common is labelled as "exercising ground" for the military, suggesting this area may have been naturally drier and less of a wetland or that it had already been infilled and drained by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

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<sup>54</sup> Blaskowitz 1784.

<sup>55</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:16.

The Common was originally intended to be a source of firewood and pastureland for the citizens of Halifax, the only real productive use for the land from the European's perspective as it was described as thinly soiled, rocky and mossy. The second function of the Common was to provide a clear view of landside invaders who might threaten the new settlement.<sup>56</sup> From the very beginning, the defense of Halifax and desires of the military were a factor in the fate and shaping of the Common.

The latter half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century saw the British with a wealth of enemies and wars to fight. Halifax and its deep harbour became a pivotal point on the Atlantic. In 1757, Halifax was filled with troops being groomed for retaking Louisburg. The armies of Lord Loudon and Lord Holburne, consisting of a complement of eleven battalions of British redcoats, two battalions of the Royal American Regiment, and a corps of Rangers, camped on the level ground surrounding Citadel Hill and the knoll to the west the hill elevated from the surrounding swampy lands bordering Freshwater Brook.<sup>57</sup> Raddall notes that through "... the hot summer days Loudon exercised his soldiers on the marshy surfaces of the Common".<sup>58</sup>



**Figure 3.2-5: A map of the Halifax Common, c. 1800, north at right.<sup>59</sup>**

<sup>56</sup> Markham 1980:16-17.

<sup>57</sup> Raddall 2007:45.

<sup>58</sup> Markham 1980:16-17.

<sup>59</sup> Public Archives of Nova Scotia 1800.



**Figure 3.2-6: An annotated version of the c. 1800 map, north at the top, showing its relation to past and current landmarks, north at top. Marks of swampy ground show a clear western edge of the military exercising ground (red) at this time.**



Halifax would also serve as a staging area for troops for the Battle of Quebec in 1759<sup>60</sup> and during the American Revolution, the town of Halifax would be once again inundated with British troops. In 1776, British forces pressured by Washington's troops were forced to flee Boston under the command of General Howe. Howe demanded the accommodation of two hundred officers, three thousand servicemen, and approximately fifteen hundred Loyalist with their families in tow. The town's inability to meet his demands meant that many servicemen would be housed in canvas tent encampments throughout the town. The largest of these was on Camp Hill on the North Common.<sup>61</sup> There is mention of tents and wigwams left on the Common following this temporary settlement.<sup>62</sup> A painting ca. 1780 by Lieutenant Colonel Edward Hicks, who was stationed in Halifax during the American Revolution, showing the view from Point Pleasant Battery looking north to Citadel Hill shows the several fortifications about the town as well as the pitched tents of several military encampments, one of which is at Camp Hill (Figure 3.2-7).

This influx of troops was not without its complications and several incidents occurred. One such incident involved troops tasked with improving the road through the marshy North Common to Camp Hill. These troops "improvised" by acquiring fill from a nearby stone wall surrounding a pasture. Chris Schelgal, a "Dutch" farmer, protested this acquisition and was murdered for his objections. Three soldiers were tried for their deed but were set free to continue with their duties.<sup>63</sup> The Camp Hill was believed to be the scene of several such Court Martials and executions during this period.<sup>64</sup>

Akins describes Camp Hill and its immediate surrounds by 1820 as "in a state of nature, covered with cradle hills, laurel bushes and ground juniper. The butcher's boys kept their sheep there, and in autumn the swampy portions afforded to the sportsmen good ground for snipe, plover, and curlew."<sup>65</sup> Frustratingly, Akins also includes only a cursory reference to a windmill on the Common around 1792: at a December 20<sup>th</sup> ball hosted by Governor and Mrs. Wentworth, the supper room decorations included exact representations of Nova Scotia landmarks including "the windmill on the Halifax Common."<sup>66</sup> No other references to a windmill were encountered in the course of this research, and it has often been assumed that "Windmill Hill" was so-named due to its suitability for a windmill rather than the true presence of one.

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<sup>60</sup> Camp Hill Historical Committee 1985:1.

<sup>61</sup> Atkins 1895:76.

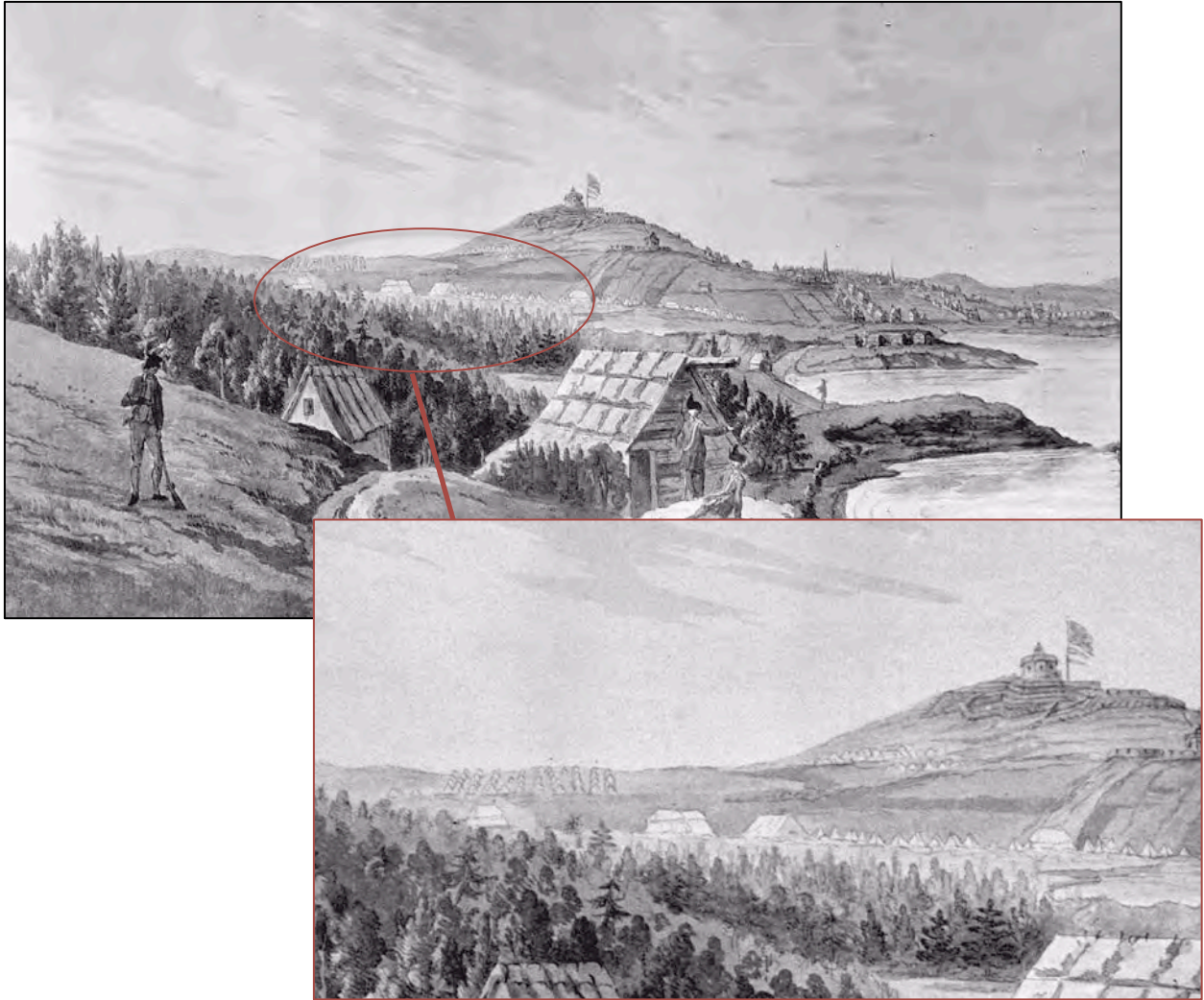
<sup>62</sup> Markham 1980:104.

<sup>63</sup> Raddall 2007:76.

<sup>64</sup> Camp Hill Historical Committee 1985:1.

<sup>65</sup> Atkins 1895:204.

<sup>66</sup> Atkins 1895:105.



***Figure 3.2-7: Lieutenant Colonel Edward Hicks' South Aspect of Halifax near Point Pleasant Park, ca. 1780.<sup>67</sup> The painting shows Fort George (Citadel Hill), Fort Massey, the Grand Battery (Lumber Yard), and Camp Hill, looking north. Military encampments can be seen along the west slope and south foot of Citadel Hill, as well as west beyond Citadel Hill at Camp Hill.***

The Common was also the site of public executions by the late eighteenth and the beginning of the nineteenth century, most seeming to relate to military matters. On August 7<sup>th</sup>, 1800, a group of 11 soldiers who had been sentenced to death for mutiny and desertion were brought to the Common, “dressed in white, with their coffins,” before the entire garrison. Eight were reprieved beneath the gallows, but the remaining three, who belonged to the Newfoundland Regiment, were hanged.<sup>68</sup> October of the

<sup>67</sup> Hicks 1780.

<sup>68</sup> Akins 1895:132.

same year saw the execution on the Common of French prisoner Pierre Paulin for murdering a fellow prisoner.<sup>69</sup>

The year 1815 saw the execution on the Common of James Archibald, who had murdered Captain Benjamin Ellenwood of Liverpool, N.S. earlier that year.<sup>70</sup> Two years later, two men were convicted of the murder of Capt. Westmacott of the Royal Engineers on Sackville Street late on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April. The men, who had killed Westmacott with a bayonet after he challenged them during his rounds “in consequence of their suspicious appearance,” were deserters from one of the garrison regiments, and had been stealing fish that night from a store on the wharves. Westmacott did not die until several weeks later, and was able to identify his attackers before his death. They were executed on the Common after their convictions.<sup>71</sup>

By 1817 the original trustees of the Common were dead and renewed efforts to improve the land were enacted. In 1818 a new group of four trustees were chosen, and an Act to improve the Common through leasing the land for private cultivation was revealed.<sup>72</sup> This statute laid out the penalties and fines that one would incur for the dumping of rubbish or the removal of soil, peat or sod from the Common. Evidently, these attempts to improve the Common did not meet with much success, as in 1829, a new statute was enacted appointing three Commissioners for the care of “...the lot or tract of waste land containing two hundred and forty acres”.<sup>73</sup>

In this same act, the military's dominion over the north part of the Common became protected by law for use as exercise grounds. This dominion was further extended by an amendment to the previous act, of April 16th, 1834, which prohibited any activity, regulation or rule that would impede the use of the land by the troops.<sup>74</sup> It also included damaging of ornamental trees on the Common as a punishable offence, and set regulations as to the kinds and numbers of animals allowed to pasture. Where the southern portion of the Common was slowly being eaten up by development, the northern portion of the Common remained largely untouched due to its military protection.

A greater understanding of how diseases were spread lead to the passing of *An Act concerning Cemeteries or Burial Grounds for the Town of Halifax* in 1833, forbidding burials within the town of Halifax. As stated in the *Act* “it has become necessary that the practice of interment within the Town or Suburbs of Halifax should be discontinued, and that a Common Public Cemetery or Cemeteries should be provided at a convenient

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<sup>69</sup> Akins 1895:138.

<sup>70</sup> Akins 1895:170.

<sup>71</sup> Akins 1895:175-176.

<sup>72</sup> Public Archives of Nova Scotia 1818, c. XIII.

<sup>73</sup> Public Archives of Nova Scotia 1822, c. XXXII.

<sup>74</sup> Public Archives of Nova Scotia 1834, c. XXI.

distance therefrom, suitable for that solemn use, and in lieu of the places of interment now appropriated thereto". However, burials would continue at the Old Burying Grounds at St. Paul's Church Cemetery until 1844.<sup>75</sup>

Part of the North Common outside the town on Camp Hill was allocated to inter the dead in response to the Act and pressured by the 1834 cholera epidemic. A sum of £250 was requested for inclosing a cemetery as there was opposition to the hastened removal of loved ones who perished from the disease within twelve hours of death. A fine of £10 would be in effect for those violation of these orders.<sup>76</sup>

*As space, cleanliness and pure air was necessary for the recovery of persons inflicted with the spasmodic cholera and to the safety of those about them, the Dalhousie College having been prepared for the reception of persons afflicted it was ordered that any member of the Board of Health, or Health Warden on the recommendation of any member of the medical profession, had the authority to insist on the removal of the sick and if any opposition was offered, assistance could be given by all magistrates, police officers, constables and others and such regulations to be enforced if resistance was offered, when persons had died of the disease-that the bodies must be buried as quickly as possible and at a safe distance from the town so as not to be a great danger to the public health. These burials to take place as early as possible but in all cases within twelve hours after death. The bodies to be buried in the ground allotted for the purpose at Fort Massey until the new cemetery on the common was enclosed.<sup>77</sup>*

It was determined that a "Common Public Cemetery or Cemeteries should be provided at a convenient distance therefore, suitable for that solemn use, and in lieu of places of interment now appropriated thereto."<sup>78</sup> Twenty acres on Camp Hill, to the west of the future Public Gardens location, were set apart and fenced for use as the first public cemetery, although it was not until 1843 that the final act to establish Camp Hill Cemetery was passed (Figure 3.2-8).<sup>79</sup>

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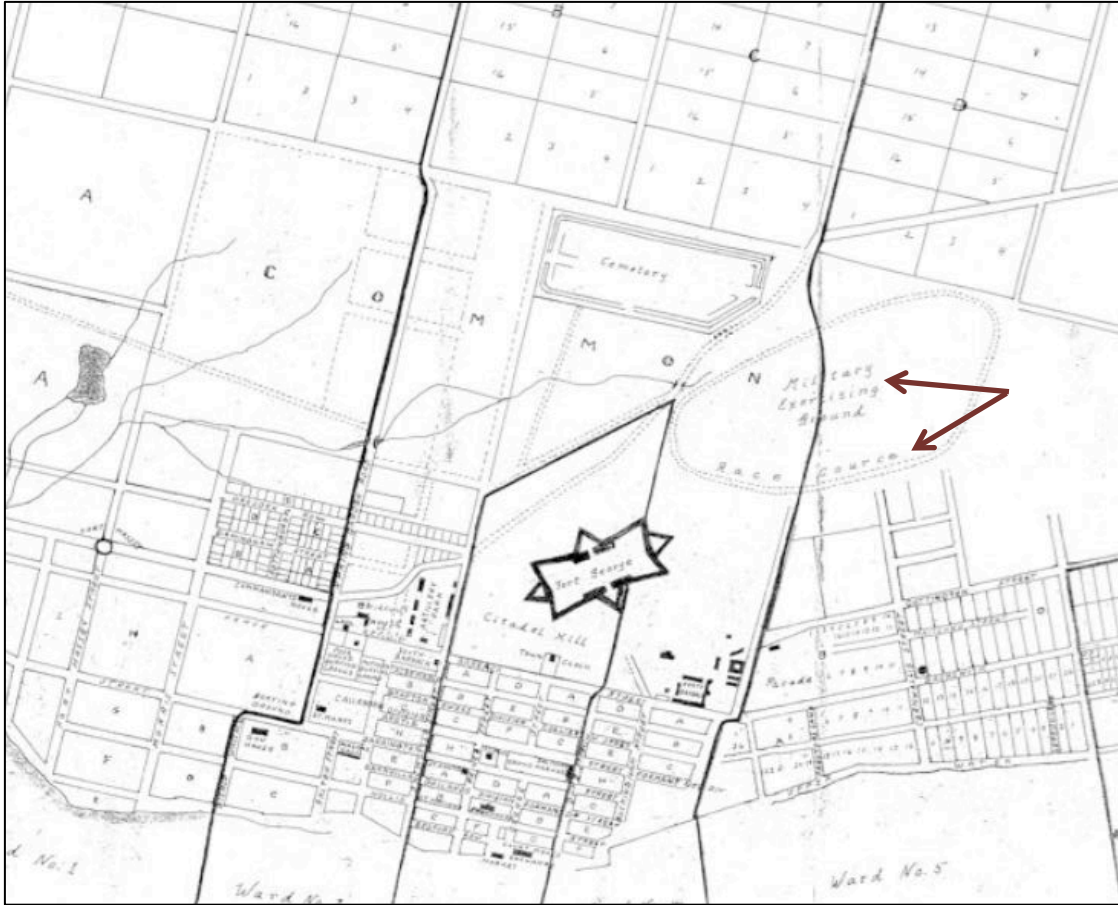
<sup>75</sup> Whidden 207-211, In Simpson 2011:98.

<sup>76</sup> Medical Society of Nova Scotia 1935:590.

<sup>77</sup> Royal Gazette in Medical Society of Nova Scotia 1935:590.

<sup>78</sup> Whidden, in Simpson 2011:98.

<sup>79</sup> City of Halifax 1859:17.



**Figure 3.2-8: Spry's 1841 map of Halifax showing the Common, the land set aside to form the Camp Hill Cemetery and the Common, including a Military Exercising Ground with a race course (red), north to right.<sup>80</sup>**

The cemetery area was fenced “at considerable expense” by the town of Halifax. However, following objection by an engineer officer that the location might be needed by the military in the event of a war, the act was repealed only four years later in 1837, only to be passed once again more permanently in 1843.<sup>81</sup> Within the cemetery, two segregated sections were allocated for the burial of paupers and African Nova Scotians. Divisions would remain in place until 1888, where paupers were given any space available at the time.<sup>82</sup> African Nova Scotians would be segregated in the cemetery until sometime during the late 1960’s with the exception of Viola Desmond in 1965.

Throughout this period, Freshwater Brook ran through the city block between Egg Pond at the North Common (now the skateboard park) and Griffin’s Pond in the Public Gardens, before making its way down to the harbour at Barrington and Inglis Streets. A

<sup>80</sup> Spry 1841.

<sup>81</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:17.

<sup>82</sup> Simpson 2011:78.

watercolour painted by Alexander Cavali Mercer in 1842, shows Freshwater Brook running through the Common (Figure 3.2-9). The painting also shows the Common as a vast open space with very little development at this time.

As the 19<sup>th</sup> century progressed, parts of Freshwater Brook were diverted and later channelled through culverts, and there are multiple nineteenth and early twentieth century maps showing the route and size of this underground course (Figure 3.2-10). Eventually, the brook was fully channelled through underground pipes, becoming a sewer.

The state of the drainage for the North Common by the mid-1990s was reportedly a set of three combined sewers under the North Common (36", 72", and 12" respectively, the first two beginning at the northwest corner of the North Common, the 12" beginning near the Centennial Fountain). The main Freshwater Sewer – formerly the Brook – by this time was a 48"x50" combined storm water and waste water sewer, partially diverting the brook at Trollope Street down Bell Road, then down Sackville Street to the harbour. The remainder of the Brook was reportedly drained by a separate 42"x48" brick sewer, beginning at the Museum of Natural History and running parallel to Bell Road, then across the Wanderers Grounds and Sackville Street, joining the main concrete sewer line on South Park Street by the former YMCA site (now the "Curve" development site) opposite the Public Gardens.<sup>83</sup> Little evidence of Freshwater Brook remains today, though part of the stone-lined diversion sewer was encountered during archaeological monitoring of the Citadel Steam Line in 2007.

Power to improve, manage, and lease the Halifax Common was formally awarded to the city of Halifax in 1851, ten years after the city's incorporation.<sup>84</sup> At this time, the "greater part" of the Common was described as "in a very rough and unimproved state, of little or no use for pasturage, and from its barren and rugged appearance was a deformity to the city."<sup>85</sup> Over the decade following the city formally taking over management of the Common, the city went to "great expense" to "reclaim a great part of it" by removing rocks, draining wet areas, creating enclosed areas, and planting borders and ornamental trees and shrubs. Light wooden fencing "calculated to keep out cattle" was placed in the northern portion of the Common, seemingly two triangular enclosures north of the Burial Ground (Camp Hill Cemetery), and the fields in the area became "grassy and ornamental, where before they were a miserable waste."<sup>86</sup>

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<sup>83</sup> Kata 1995:23.

<sup>84</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:3.

<sup>85</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:4.

<sup>86</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:4, 15.



**Figure 3.2-9: An 1842 watercolour shows Freshwater Brook running through the Common, looking towards Spring Garden Road.<sup>87</sup>**



**Figure 3.2-10: A 1904 map of part of Halifax shows a 36" conduit on the North Common increasing to 45" near the current playground and skate park (blue), then to 48" under South Park Street (red), north at right.<sup>88</sup>**

<sup>87</sup> Alexander Cavali Mercer 1842, after Devanney 2014.

<sup>88</sup> City Engineer's Office 1904a.

Under the improved 1851 legislation of the Common, persons convicted of “digging up the soil, of encumbering it with manure, offal, dirt, ashes, earth, stone or rubbish, - of destroying, removing or damaging buildings, fences, trees or shrubs thereon, - of injuring the ponds, or taking from them ice or water,” were subject to a 40 shilling fine for trespass in addition to up to 10 pounds in damages or expenses.<sup>89</sup> Cows, oxen, and sheep were permitted to be kept on the Common under any conditions set by the council, but horses, asses, mules, swine, and goats would be impounded by the city.<sup>90</sup>

Parts of the Common may have been viewed as rather undesirable parts of town. The South Common, for example, near the present-day site of the Victoria General Hospital, featured a town gallows where soldiers and commoners guilty of serious offences were hanged.<sup>91</sup> By the 1890s, the block of property between Cunard, North Park, Maynard and John’s Lane was considered by some to be a slum, suggesting that the area was occupied by poor lower class families.<sup>92</sup>

In a letter to the editor of the *Morning Chronicle* dated July 27, 1877 and described wittily by the author as a “tragi-comedy”, a resident of the city described his observance of a group of men and young boys engaged in the burial of a “half-alive” cow “about 50 yards, if so much, from the road along which people from the North-end go to the Public Gardens” and no more than 300 yards from the corner of the Public Gardens on Camp Hill. The cow was reported to be buried in a pit so shallow that one “could see the heels of the beast over some planking” and the author speculated as to how many other dead cows and horses had been disposed of on this ground.<sup>93</sup> Powell suggests this dump pit was located in the general area of the QEII Halifax Infirmary Building.<sup>94</sup>

### *Parcelling Out and Privatization/Institutionalization of the Common*

In 1818, an act was passed for the improvement of the Common under Commissioners acting as trustees. These Commissioners directed a portion of the land be laid out in smaller lots and leased, some of these lots including land north of Pyke’s Bridge (Figure 3.2-11).<sup>95</sup> The leases seem to have been intended as farm lots for keeping cattle and horses.<sup>96</sup> The act was marked in its applicable statute book as “disallowed by his majesty,” though a number of leases had been granted before this disallowance, and it seems that they were somehow permitted to stand.<sup>97</sup>

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<sup>89</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:43.

<sup>90</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:43.

<sup>91</sup> Raddall 1993:182-183.

<sup>92</sup> Blakeley 1949, 202.

<sup>93</sup> *Morning Chronicle* 27 July 1877, p2 col3.

<sup>94</sup> Powell 2003:2.

<sup>95</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:11.

<sup>96</sup> Kata 1995:12-13.

<sup>97</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:11.



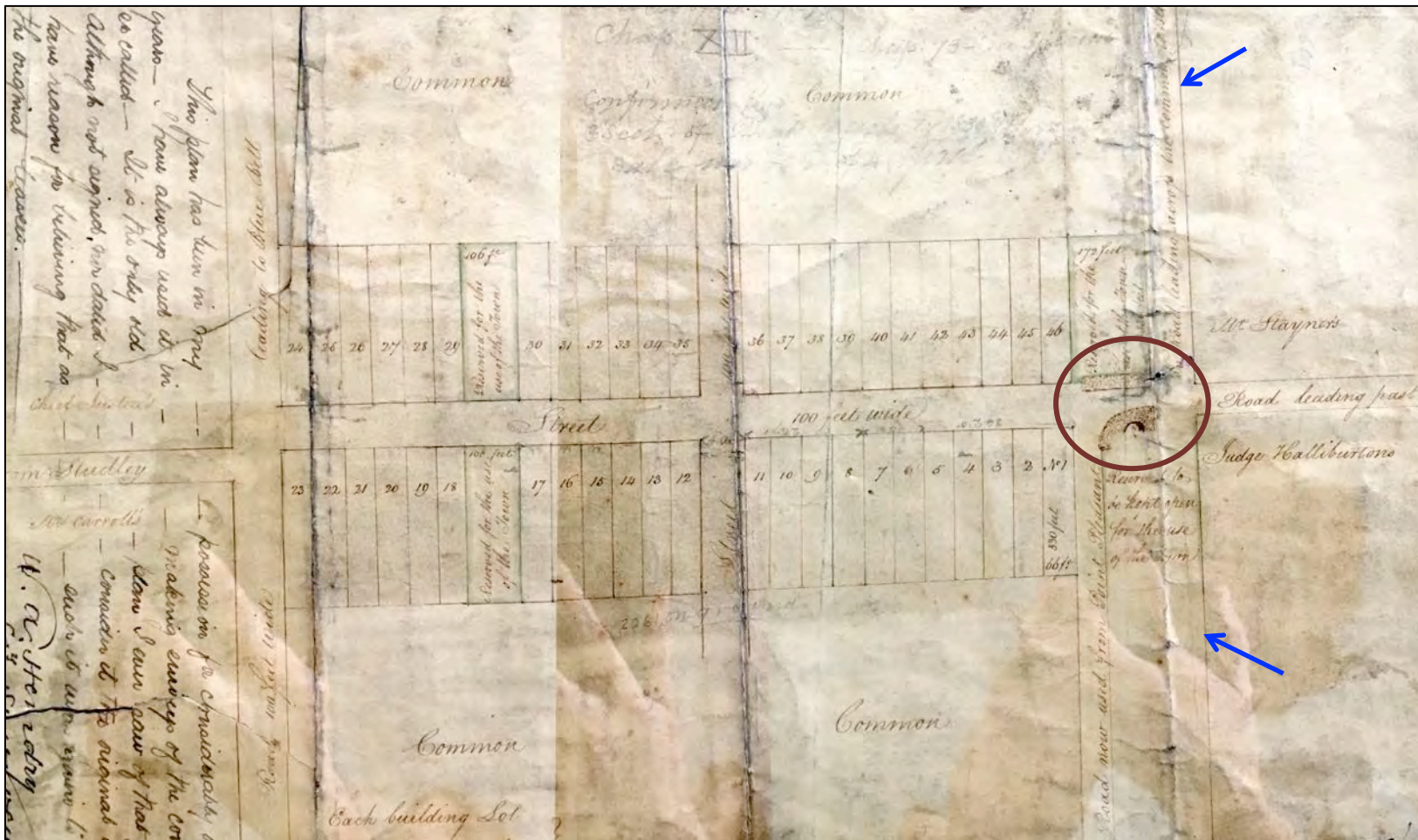


Figure 3.2-11: An undated map of the Common lots along Spring Garden Road (blue), assumed to be c.1818, showing Pyke's Bridge (red) in a skewed perspective to the right or east, north to the top.<sup>98</sup>

<sup>98</sup> Unknown c.1818.

Originally intended to last for 100 years, the legislation actually allowed for 999-year leases. These incredibly long leases were essentially viewed as perpetuity and therefore illegal given the purpose of the Halifax Common. The resulting conflict meant that further leases were paused.<sup>99</sup> The leases were confirmed in an 1829 act, though it was specified at that time that no more than 100 acres should be leased at any one time,<sup>100</sup> and in 1833, new legislation was passed that allowed for new 35-year leases to be created, and allowed for existing leases to be surrendered without cost.<sup>101</sup> It was further outlined in 1851 that the leases should not exceed 15 years at a time.<sup>102</sup> An 1859 account states that by 1829 the older 999-year leases were indeed in use, the land being fenced and occupied with buildings already constructed on them.<sup>103</sup>

Mapping for the initial 1818 lots appears by the 1830s, showing all the land that had been partitioned and leased for use of private individuals along Spring Garden Road (Figure 3.2-12). Land in the area to the south of Spring Garden Road soon began to be built upon by institutions, such as an infirmary, school for the blind and the All Saints Cathedral.<sup>104</sup>

To the north of Spring Garden Road, some private ownership and development began along Carleton (now Carlton) Street in the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Additionally, in 1841, the Nova Scotia Horticultural Society was granted 5.5 acres of the Halifax Common on the south side of the city dump. This initial grant consisted of the southwest corner of the present gardens and by 1847, with the addition of two lots of land from the estate of Joseph Allison, the Horticultural Gardens had extended as far as South Park Street.<sup>105</sup>

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<sup>99</sup> Banks 2016:9-10.

<sup>100</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:11, 44.

<sup>101</sup> Banks 2016:9-10.

<sup>102</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:11, 44.

<sup>103</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:16.

<sup>104</sup> CRM Group Ltd 2011:8.

<sup>105</sup> Friends of Public Gardens 1989:8.



**Figure 3.2-12: 1839 Plan of the Ground in the Vicinity of the Citadel of Halifax, north at right.<sup>106</sup> Note that building lots and buildings are visible along Spring Garden Road, where it cuts through the Common (red).**

An 1859 map of the North Common and Spring Garden Road area depicts the contrast between the development along Spring Garden and the more rural, developed Common to the north. This area is labelled as grass fields, exercising grounds and a cricket ground and it is known from other sources that the area to the north and west of the Horticultural Gardens was also part of the city dump. Just over seven acres of land in the area that would later become the QEII High School is labelled as being owned by the British Government. The city blocks around Spring Garden are labelled as being leased for 999 years. To the south of Spring Garden, the city hospital is visible (Figure 3.2-13). Under 1851 legislation for the Common, the Nova Scotia Horticultural Society was exempt from paying rent on their 999-year lease of eleven half-acre lots, so long as the lots were occupied and used by the society as a public garden. Additional portions of the garden were leased for 33 years, though the terms were not laid out in the legislation.<sup>107</sup>

<sup>106</sup> Public Archives of Nova Scotia 1839.

<sup>107</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:43-44.

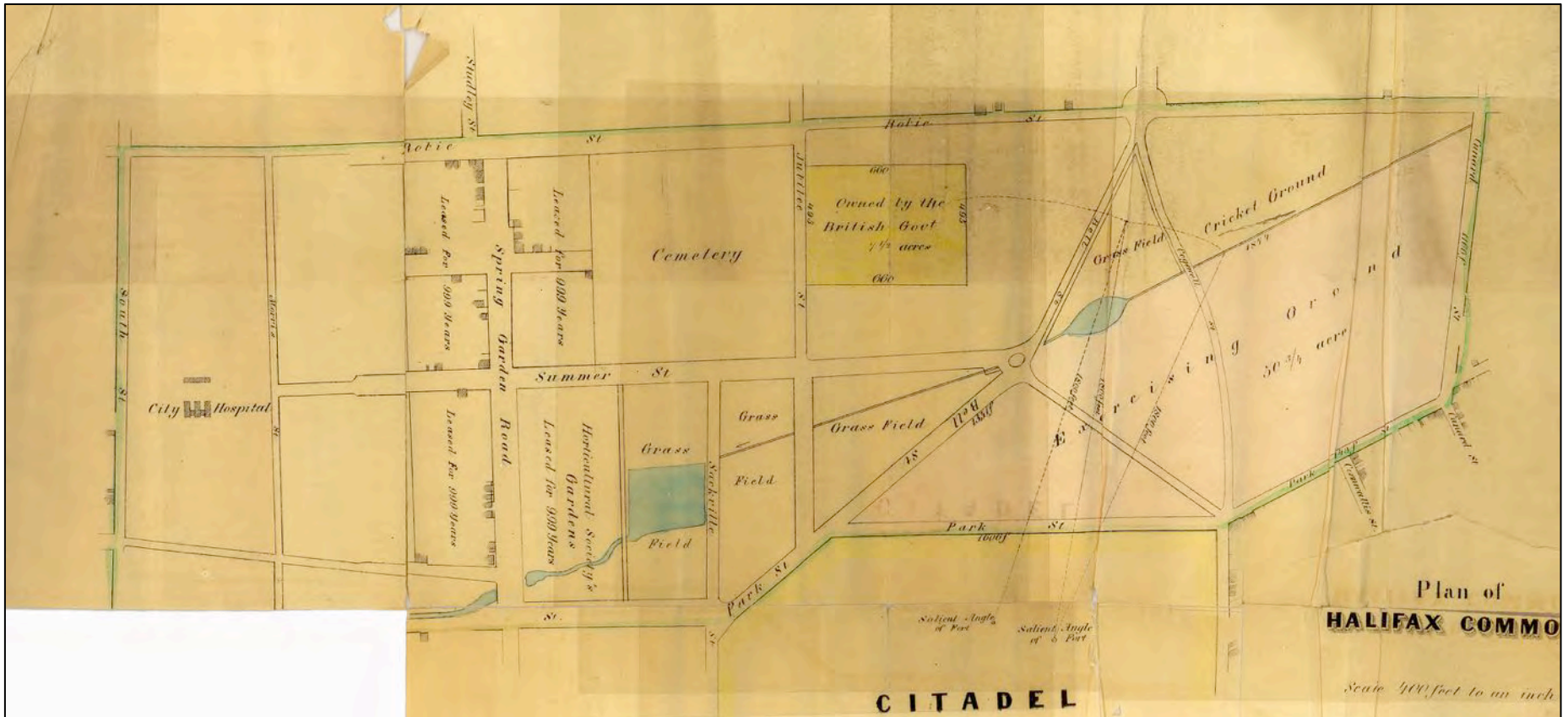


Figure 3.2-13: 1859 Plan of the Halifax Common, north at right.<sup>108</sup> Note the City Hospital at the south end, the 999-year leases along Spring Garden Road, the grass fields around the future Public Gardens area, the exercising ground at the north end, and the cricket ground in the North Common.

<sup>108</sup> Gossip 1859.

It was on one of the 999-year leases that the Convent of the Sacred Heart was built in 1852, one of the first institutions to be built within the original Common grant. The Society of Sacred Heart was invited to Halifax by Bishop William Walsh in 1849, to address the lack of boarding schools for Catholic girls in Halifax. In May of that same year, Mother Hardey and five other nuns arrived in Halifax and were initially housed at Brookside, the present site of the Lord Nelson hotel on the edge of the Common. This accommodation was temporary, however, and in 1852, a convent was built on Spring Garden Road, on land leased from part of the Common.<sup>109</sup>

The convent on Spring Garden Road was a three-storey structure (Figure 3.2-14). Beside the convent, a barn and cottage were also constructed. Within the convent, a private Academy was established. Catholic girls received an education in academic subjects, as well as sewing, drawing and music.<sup>110</sup>



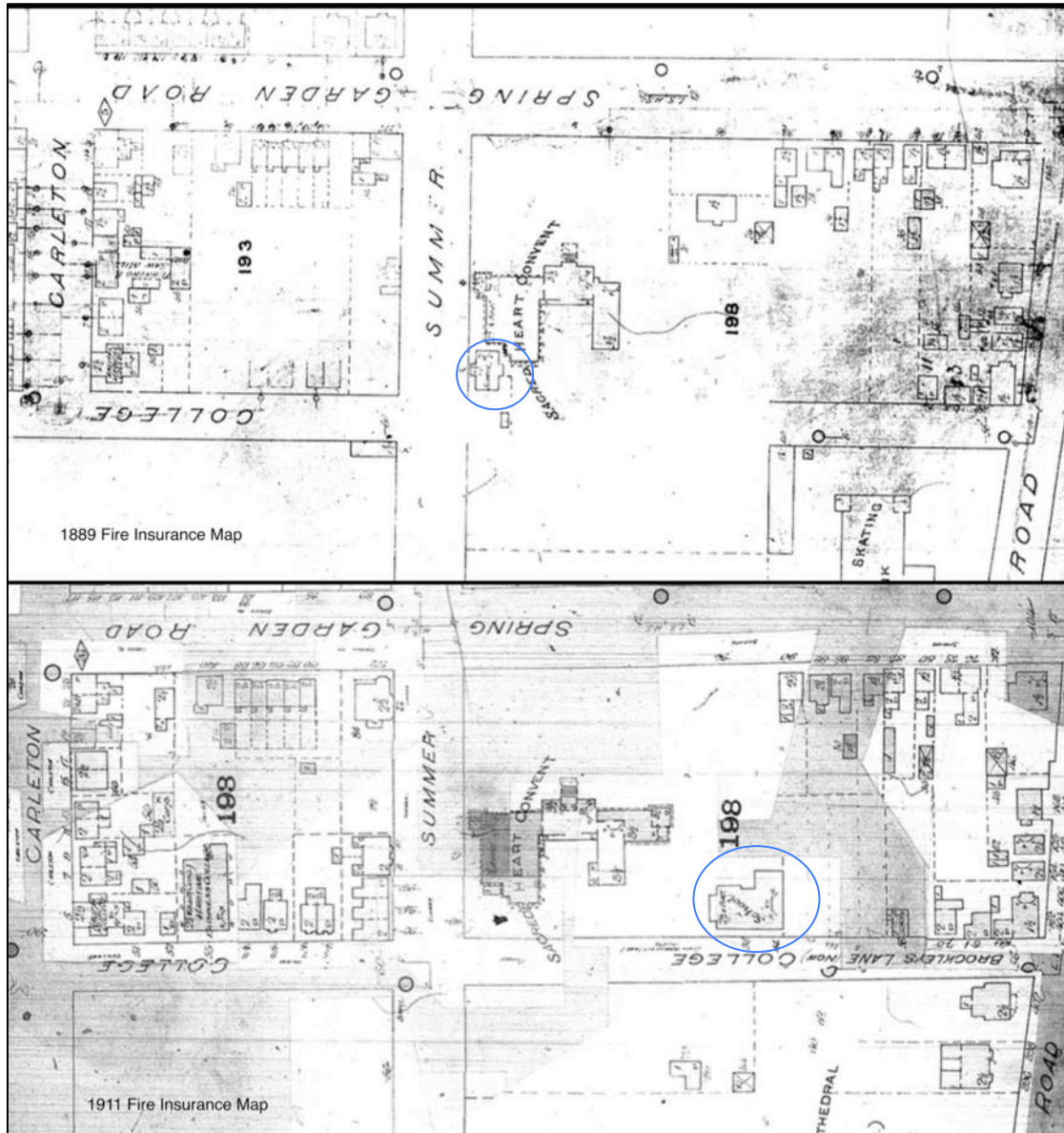
**Figure 3.2-14: The Sacred Heart Convent and private school in 1870.<sup>111</sup>**

<sup>109</sup> Baudoin 1981; Holy Cross Historical Trust 2017 URL; Stark 2017:5.

<sup>110</sup> Baudoin 1981; Guildford 1990 in McCord Museum URL.

<sup>111</sup> Notman 1870.

A free elementary school was opened in the barn by Sister Catherine Hartigan shortly after construction. This free school became a public school in 1866.<sup>112</sup> In 1901, the public school moved to a new building at the rear of the convent, along the newly extended College Street (Figure 3.2-15). In 1952, the College Street school building was closed and the public school moved to another site, outside of the study area<sup>113</sup>



**Figure 3.2-15: The Sacred Heart Convent on the 1899 and 1911 Fire Insurance maps, north at top. Note the public school building was moved (blue) and College Street has been extended.<sup>114</sup>**

<sup>112</sup> Baudoin 1981.

<sup>113</sup> Baudoin 1981.

<sup>114</sup> Goad 1899, sheet 33; 1911, sheet 33.

Within the convent, the private school continued on and received recognition from Dalhousie University in 1905, allowing graduates to become eligible for admission to Dalhousie as third-year students.<sup>115</sup> It has remained a private school today. Although many modifications have been made to the property over the years, the central original building dating to 1852 remains relatively unchanged.<sup>116</sup>

Following the Sacred Heart Convent, two other major institutions were given land within the boundary of the Common, collectively taking up almost all of the south end. The first of these was the City Hospital in 1857. The City Hospital was established as the first public hospital in Halifax, located on the South Common. After repeated requests from the Halifax Medical Society, funding from the province and funds from the estate of William Murdock, construction began in 1857 on a “large and open boggy field” where locals were known to hunt game birds along South Street.<sup>117</sup> Plagued with difficulties from the beginning, the City Hospital suffered from poor heating, smoking stoves, lacked gas and water, and was burdened with poor drainage. At a cost of thirty-eight thousand dollars, the citizens of Halifax were reluctant to put any funds towards a public hospital to upgrade its services.<sup>118</sup> The brick building with granite facings would lie largely vacant until 1867.<sup>119</sup>

Dr. Charles Tupper petitioned the province several times throughout the relatively dormant period of the City Hospital’s existence between 1860 and 1866 to come to the aid of the city’s fledgling hospital to help control the spread of disease. Up until this time, the city’s diseased and infirm lower classes would be accommodated at the Poor Asylum along with the vast population of the city’s undesirables. In winter of 1866, the outbreak of Asiatic Cholera emphasised Dr. Tupper’s petitions.<sup>120</sup> The province agreed to pay two-thirds of the operational cost,<sup>121</sup> facilitating 50 beds and space for those suffering from communicable diseases in a wooden cottage behind the hospital.<sup>122</sup>

Reopened under the new name the City and Provincial Hospital in 1867, the first patient would be attended to on April 15.<sup>123</sup> Mr. Hubley, a farmer from St. Margret’s Bay, entered the brick surgical ward of the hospital suffering a “strophulus condition of the ankle joint”.<sup>124</sup> Doctors recommended against surgery, splinted Hubley’s ankle and sent

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<sup>115</sup> Baudoin 1981.

<sup>116</sup> Baudoin 1981.

<sup>117</sup> Stewart 1968:51.

<sup>118</sup> Ibid:52.

<sup>119</sup> McGuigan 2007:158.

<sup>120</sup> Stewart 1968:52.

<sup>121</sup> McGuigan 2007:158.

<sup>122</sup> Stewart 1968:52.

<sup>123</sup> Ibid.

<sup>124</sup> Ibid:51.

him back to his home “Unimproved”.<sup>125</sup> The first inpatient to the City and Provincial Hospital would not arrive until 10 days later suffering from a disease considered “common” for the time. Within its first year, the hospital would admit over 227 patients.<sup>126</sup>

With the establishment of a large general hospital in Halifax, Dalhousie University saw a great opportunity to develop a medical faculty in 1868.<sup>127</sup> In 1869, the *Anatomy Bill* would be passed allowing medical students to practice anatomy on cadavers to supplement their studies. However, corpses for the use of student instruction would be difficult to obtain. Few would agree to the donation of family members’ remains for scientific studies and had a general mistrust for medical professionals, thus setting the scene for the infamous 1875 Gleason bodysnatching case creating a great embarrassment for the hospital and Medical Faculty. In August 1875, a hospital attendant informed the police that at various times the remains of individuals would be disposed of for anatomical purposes with mock funerals and empty coffins. The body of a young man named Michael Gleason would be later exhumed revealing an empty coffin filled with rubbish and hospital linen. The seriousness of this case was escalated by the fact that Gleason specifically requested to not be dissected after death.<sup>128</sup>

In 1887, in honour of Queen Victoria’s Golden Jubilee, the City and Provincial Hospital would be renamed the Victoria General Hospital.<sup>129</sup> This change not only represented the height of the trend of using Victoria’s name, it also symbolized the dawn of a new era in administration at the hospital. After much of the medical board resigned in the aftermath of the “Great Row of 1885”, a response to the provincial government’s interference in medical appointment, the province took over sole administration of the hospital.<sup>130</sup> The following year, \$20,000 of expenditures for expansions and repairs would be authorized, resulting in the construction of both the north and south wings (Figure 3.2-16, Figure 3.2-17).<sup>131</sup>

In 1890, a nursing school was established, with its first class graduating two years later. The founding of the school would greatly improve the working conditions and raise medical standards at the hospital. Continuing with this trend, a pathology laboratory was added to the VG in 1914, a decade after an X-ray machine was installed.<sup>132</sup>

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<sup>125</sup> Ibid.

<sup>126</sup> Ibid.

<sup>127</sup> Howell 1988:21.

<sup>128</sup> Howell 1988:22-33.

<sup>129</sup> McGuigan 2007:158.

<sup>130</sup> Ibid:159.

<sup>131</sup> Stewart 1968:53.

<sup>132</sup> McGuigan 2007:159.





**Figure 3.2-16: A view of the Victoria General Hospital c.1900, showing the north and south wings.<sup>133</sup>**



**Figure 3.2-17: A horse drawn ambulance in front the VG's main entrance 1910.<sup>134</sup>**

<sup>133</sup> Notman Studio. c. 1900. *Victoria General Hospital c. 1900.*

<sup>134</sup> Notman Studio. 1910. *Victoria General Hospital Ambulance.*

In 1917, the Victoria General Building was not spared damage from the Halifax Explosion. Hundreds of windows were reported to be broken, adding severe cold to the list of complications in responding to the disaster. The staff was overwhelmed by the amount of injured arriving at their door. For three to four days following the Halifax Explosion, patients were treated in makeshift conditions. American military medical help arrived not long after and stayed several months to assist the overworked staff.<sup>135</sup>

The following year, hospital capacity was once again stretched with the introduction of the Spanish Flu in 1918. After two months and many deaths, including three nursing students,<sup>136</sup> the flu all but disappeared. The ongoing war effort and inflation created budgeting problems, with a food cost increase of approximately 142 percent between 1913 and 1919.<sup>137</sup>

Regardless of the budgeting constraints, in 1921 the VG opened a medical pavilion for the upper classes who could afford a private hotel-like atmosphere.<sup>138</sup> Symbolizing the institution's growing appeal to the middle and upper classes, a four-storey pavilion including an isolation ward, doctors' offices, and a space for a new x-ray department was opened.<sup>139</sup>

Throughout the early 20th century, a large number of changes were made to the property as the number of buildings and scope of services expanded (). In 1932, the cancer clinic was established making a home for several recently-specialized graduate medical students. With the influx of new patients with specific care needs, a new larger and modern facility would be needed. By 1941 the aging Victoria General would see some 7,000 admitted patients and by 1943 the patient numbers exceeded 7,500. Construction of the Victoria Building would begin on July 1, 1943. The modern 15-storey facility would be the tallest hospital building in the British Empire at the time. The official laying of the cornerstone of the building would occur on September 5, 1945. The building would be officially opened in 1948.<sup>140</sup>

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<sup>135</sup> McGuigan 2007:159.

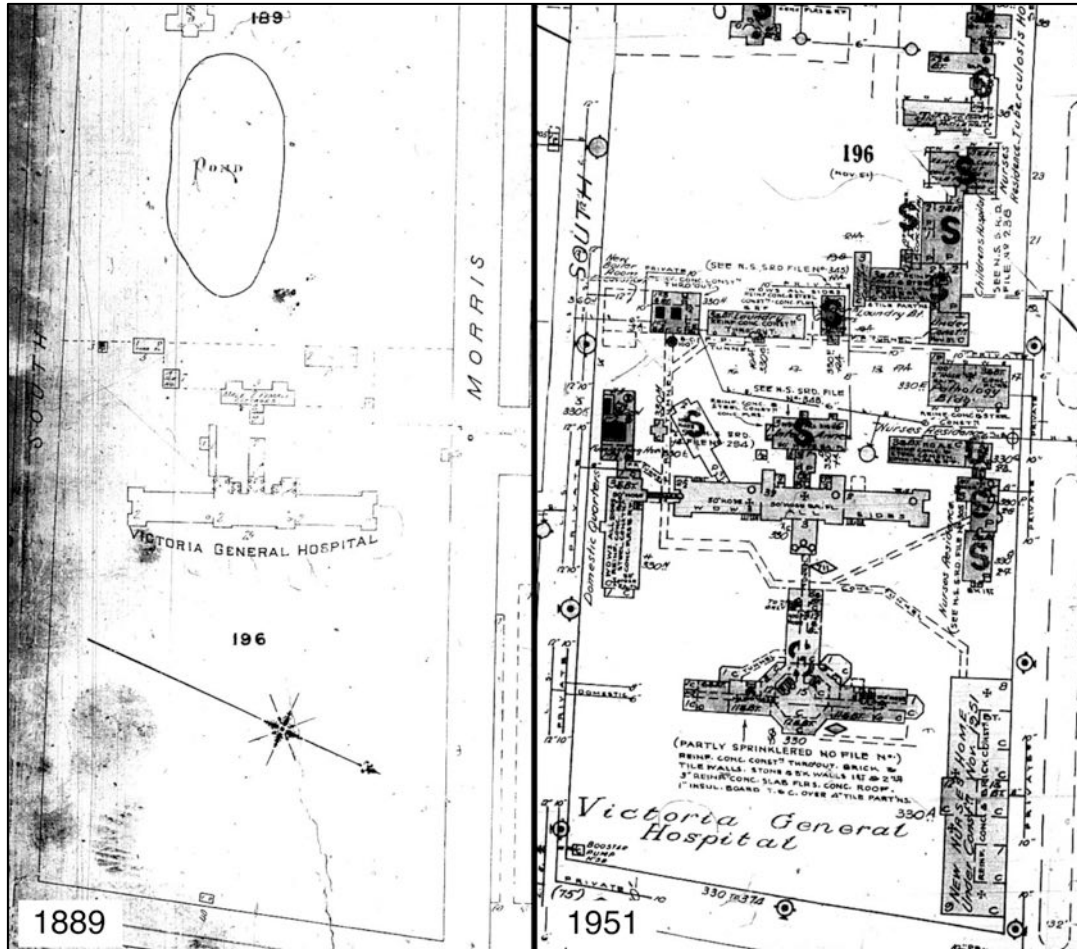
<sup>136</sup> Carter 2005:18.

<sup>137</sup> McGuigan 2007:159.

<sup>138</sup> McGuigan 2007:159.

<sup>139</sup> Howell: 65.

<sup>140</sup> Howell: 76-77, 82.



**Figure 3.2-18: Comparison of 1914 and 1951 fire insurance plans of the Victoria General Hospital property, north at right.**<sup>141</sup>

In 1952, a new nurses' school and residences opened. At the close of the Second World War, antibiotics like penicillin became part of modern medical procedures, increasing the survivability of infections.<sup>142</sup> The Centennial wing of the Victoria General Hospital was opened on April 15, 1967. This new wing, opening exactly one hundred years after the VG admitted its first patient, would house 500 new beds. The existing Victoria Building would be upgraded to flow into the new wing, increasing total Hospital capacity to 875 (Figure 3.2-19).<sup>143</sup>

<sup>141</sup> Goad 1914, sheet 33; 1951, sheet 34.

<sup>142</sup> McGuigan 2007:160.

<sup>143</sup> Howell 1988:98.



**Figure 3.2-19: Aerial of the Victoria General Hospital complex, c.1970.<sup>144</sup>**

The Robert Clark Dickson Ambulatory Care Centre was opened in the summer of 1983 to address the issue of overcrowding in the Hospital’s outpatient facilities. The building would house an outpatient facility as well as cancer clinics, pain management and several other clinics.<sup>145</sup>

The second major institution constructed at the south end of the Common was that of the Poor House. Halifax’s original poor house dated back to the founding days of the City and was located on the north side of Spring Garden Road at Grafton Park from 1760 to 1869. For many, the poor house was the only alternative to the city’s prison at Rockhead, it was a place of final resort.<sup>146</sup> Unfortunately so, for many of the city’s destitute, their experiences as poor house inmates were no better than the city’s prison. Along with the city’s poor, the seasonally unemployed, the elderly, mentally and physically disabled of all ages, shared tight quarters with unwed mothers and their children. The institution was largely run by the inmates themselves. Nursing the sick and stoking fire as well as menial tasks such as working in the stone-shed or wood-yard were part of inmates’ daily tasks to discourage “idleness”.<sup>147</sup>

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<sup>144</sup> HRM Archives [url]

<sup>145</sup> Howell 1988: 109.

<sup>146</sup> Fingard 1989: 54.

<sup>147</sup> Ibid

In 1869, in response to the overcrowding and “poor ventilation” at the Spring Garden Road Poor house, a new poor house was constructed on the South Common on the corner of South and Robie Street.<sup>148</sup> This area of the Common appears to have been open field at the time that the Poor House moved here. At a cost of \$12,396.69 shared by both the city and the province, “a noble monument to charity and benevolence,” now found its home in the South End.<sup>149</sup>

The construction of this new poor house would be coordinated by Harry Peters, based on the architectural designs of locally well-known David Sterling. It’s Latin Cross design, contained four wings, extending from a central building which measuring 180 feet long, 50 feet wide, and four stories high.<sup>150</sup> Although originally envisioned to house 1200 inmates, the cities population did not warrant the construction of such a massive institution. It was deemed that the central building along with the East, South, and West wings, housing 600 comfortably would be constructed more inline with the city’s needs.<sup>151</sup>

Once completed on December 1, 1869, the brick building, which was the tallest building in the city during the period<sup>152</sup> was now the new home for the cities “undesirables”. Once again, the city’s poor found themselves rooming with, the aged, the mentally and physically disabled of all ages, and inebriants. Intended as a multiuse institution, it would also serve as a minor hospital.<sup>153</sup>

A fateful flaw in the building’s construction lead to tragedy on the night of November 6, 1882. Although the greater building was built to resist fire, fireproofing in the basement kitchen was not fully implemented. The “Midnight Fire” as it has become to be known, broke out in the kitchen and traveled up the newly installed ventilation shaft to the roof of the building. Initially thought to be suppressed, inmates were not properly evacuated, and the fire was soon out of control.<sup>154</sup> As reported in *Citizen and Evening Chronicle* for 7 November the horrific scene was described for it readership: “far above the roar of flames and crack of bursting slates were heard the cries of the wretched patients in the hospital, who were roasting to death. Most of them...were helpless, [and] could not leave their beds....”<sup>155</sup>

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<sup>148</sup> Simpson 2011:52.

<sup>149</sup> McGuigan 2007:160.

<sup>150</sup> "Proposed New Poor's Asylum," *Novascotian* [Halifax] 28 January, 1867, p. 5, col. 3., In Simpson: 2011:54

<sup>151</sup> Simpson 2011:54.

<sup>152</sup> Blakeley, in Simpson 2011:53.

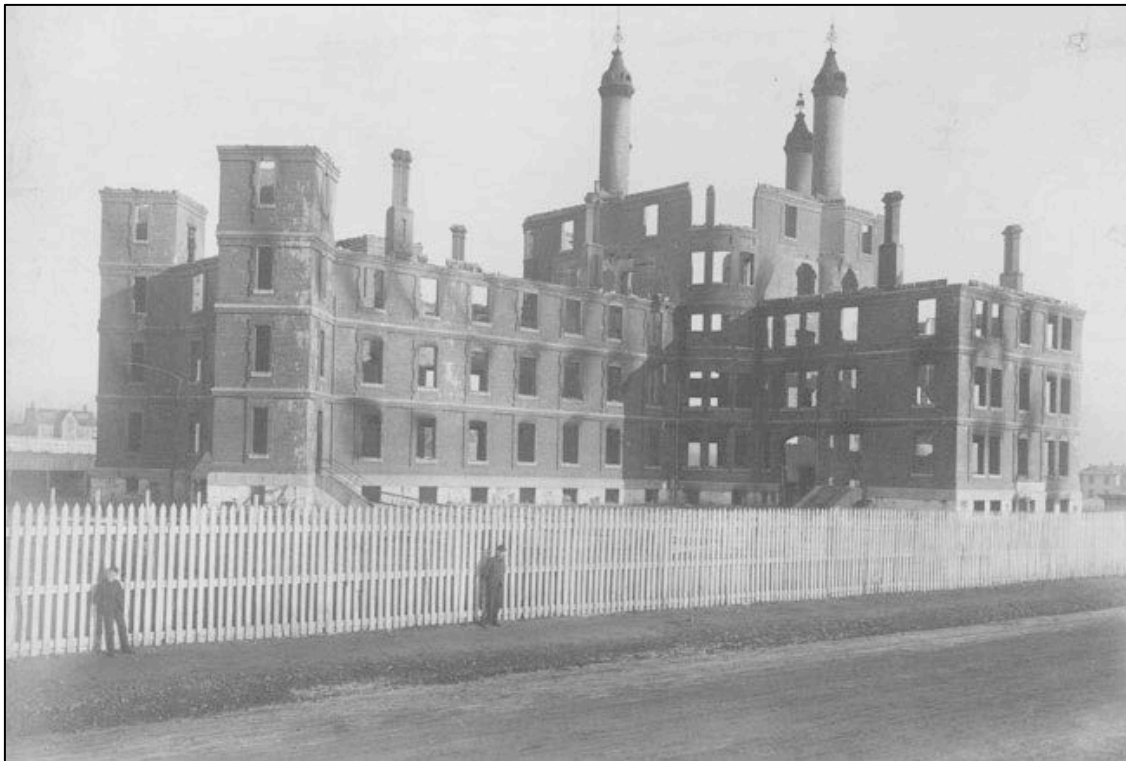
<sup>153</sup> McGuigan 2007:160., Simpson 2011:54.

<sup>154</sup> McGuigan 2007:161.

<sup>155</sup> The *Citizen and Evening Chronicle* [Halifax] 7 November, 1882, p. 3, col. 2. In Simpson 2011:54.

Thirty-one of the three hundred thirty-three inmates were killed in the fire. At the time, it was recorded as the greatest loss of life in a fire within the city.<sup>156</sup> Much of the blame was placed upon the recently appointed Director William Fleming, who rejected the previous Director, Edward Shield's daughter's assistance as Matron. Temporary shelter for the survivors was provided in the barn and several other outbuildings, creating makeshift dorm rooms until space was made to house the inmates at the recently abandoned penitentiary on the Northwest Arm. Until the home was rebuilt in 1886, the inmates would sleep upon army cots and blankets, overflowing the one hundred available cells, clogging the cellblock corridors.<sup>157</sup>

The task of dismantling the ruined poorhouse was bestowed upon the stronger of the inmates. Reports were made of inmates making the long walk from their temporary accommodations to the site along Tower Road. This arduous duty was completed with the help of the Royal Engineers, demolishing the remaining structure with the aid of gun cotton (Figure 3.2-20, Figure 3.2-21).<sup>158</sup>



**Figure 3.2-20: Ruins of the Poor House taken 2 years after the November 1882 "Midnight Fire", in January 1884.<sup>159</sup>**

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<sup>156</sup> Simpson 2011:55.

<sup>157</sup> McGuigan 2007:161.

<sup>158</sup> Ibid.

<sup>159</sup> Nova Scotia Archives. January 1884. *Ruins of Poor House Burnt Nov. 7, 1882.*



**Figure 3.2-21: Royal Engineers attaching gun cotton charges to the shell of the Poor House building in December 1884, looking southeast towards South Street.<sup>160</sup>**

In October 1886, a third Poorhouse would be opened in the same South Street location as its doomed predecessor (Figure 3.2-22). This incarnation would be constructed under the design plans of Henry F. Busch. Special plans "made for [the] separation of the sexes and immunity from fires".<sup>161</sup> With a total cost of over one hundred thousand dollars, almost half of the cost was claimed from insurance on the old building.<sup>162</sup> The building was constructed to house over 500 inmates,<sup>163</sup> with four floors spread over three wings. In 1886-87, the city took over full administration duty of the poor house, while the province took responsibility for the adjunct City and Provincial Hospital.<sup>164</sup>

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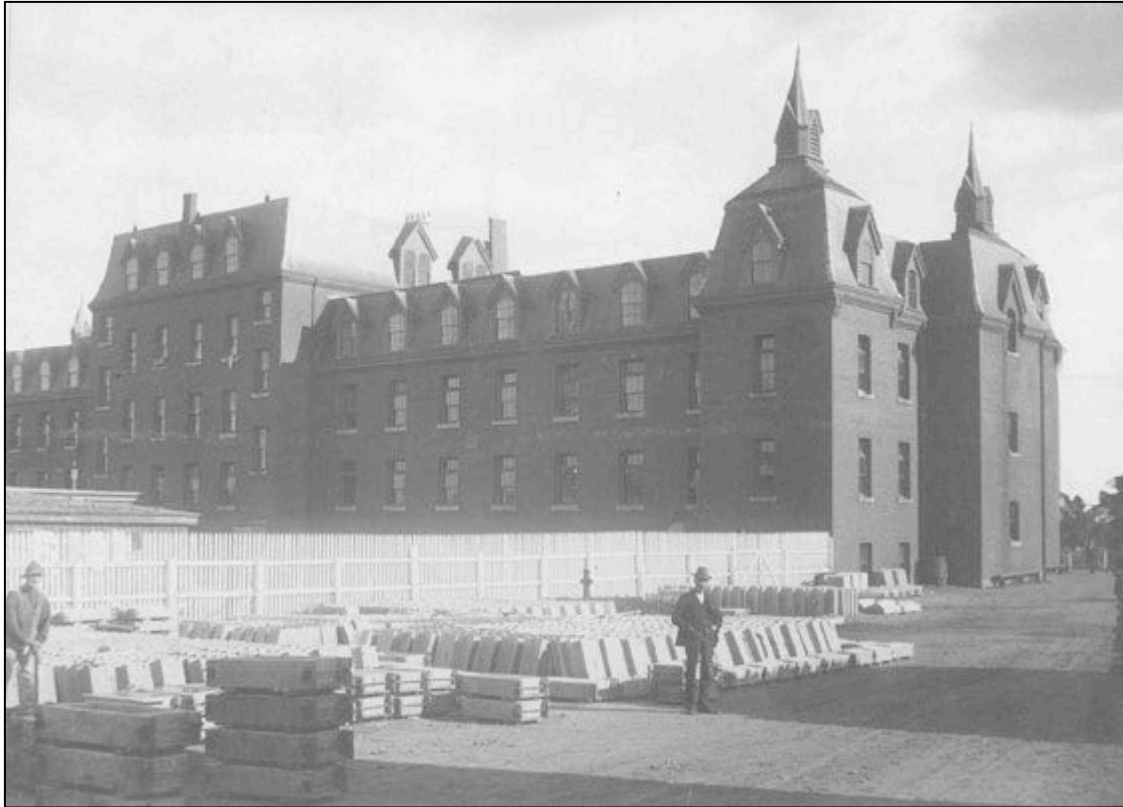
<sup>160</sup> Nova Scotia Archives, 1884. *Demolition of ruins of Poor Asylum fire, Halifax.*

<sup>161</sup> "The new poor house," *Citizen and Evening Chronicle* [Halifax] 17 March, 1883, p. 3, col. 2, In Simpson 2011:55.

<sup>162</sup> McGuigan 2007:162.

<sup>163</sup> Blakeley In Simpson 2011:55.

<sup>164</sup> McGuigan 2007:162.



**Figure 3.2-22: “Concrete Sewer Blocks made at the Halifax Poor Asylum”, 1899.<sup>165</sup>**

The Poor House or City Home consisted not just of one building but of a large complex of structures. Fire Insurance maps provide insight into the different buildings and their functions, as well as their change over time. Longstanding buildings included the laundry and boiler room attached to the back of the main house, a stone shed, workshops and a fire station. Between 1895 and 1971, a great deal of change occurred on the property, with the constructions of a tuberculosis hospital, several nurses residences, a children's hospital, the Halifax Health Centre and the infilling of the pond (Figure 3.2-23). By 1971, the Poor House building was mainly serving individuals with mental illness, as labelled on the fire insurance maps.

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<sup>165</sup> Margeson. 1899. *Concrete Sewer Blocks made at the Halifax Poor Asylum, Halifax, N.S.*



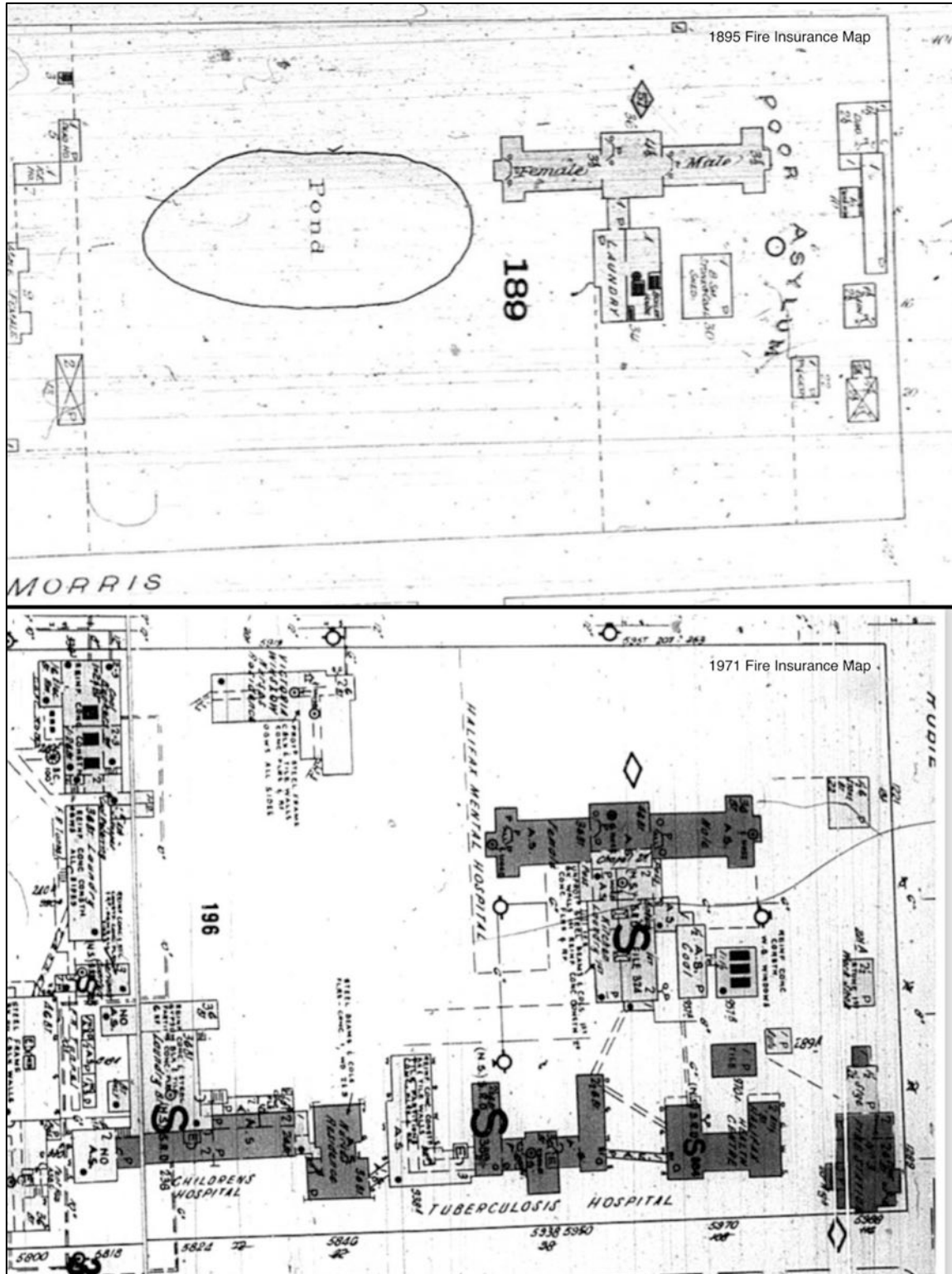


Figure 3.2-23: 1895 (top) and 1971 (bottom) fire insurance maps showing the Poor House property at the southwest corner of the Common, north at bottom.<sup>166</sup>

<sup>166</sup> Goad 1895, sheet 33; 1971, sheet 34.

As social reforms changed and specialized institutions, such as the City Hospital, 1859 (later named the Victoria General Hospital) and Mount Hope Insane Asylum, 1858 (later named The Nova Scotia Hospital) offered dedicated care and the burden was lessened upon the South Street Poor house. It would remain part of the South End landscape until its demolition in 1972. The last remaining 165 residents from the now renamed City Home, would be moved to the Abbey Lane Memorial Hospital in 1971, leaving the home vacant for the first time since its opening in 1886 (Figure 3.2-24).<sup>167</sup>



**Figure 3.2-24: Looking north across the Gorsebrook Golf Course towards the City Home ca. 1947.**<sup>168</sup>

The greatest changes to the property occurred in 1972, when the Poor House and associated buildings were demolished to construct the IWK Children's Hospital. Today, the entire south end of the original Common consists of mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings related to the IWK and Victoria General Hospital.

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<sup>167</sup> Simpson 2011: 66-67.

<sup>168</sup> Hedly Doty, Nova Scotia Information Service NSARM no. NSIS 15

Taking up the last corner of the south end of the Common, the Halifax Asylum for the Blind was opened in 1871. The first superintendent of the asylum was Sir Charles Frederick Fraser who came from a wealthy family and was himself blind. He would become the public face of the asylum.<sup>169</sup> The goal of the asylum was to provide technical and domestic training for employment for the students, who were both male and female. This training included bead and wool work, repairing cane chairs, and instruction in music.<sup>170</sup>

The asylum rebranded itself as the Halifax Institution for the Blind in 1879, in response to concerns that parents were not sending their children here for fear it more a hospital or sanatorium than a school.<sup>171</sup> In 1884, the institution was again renamed to the Halifax School for the Blind.<sup>172</sup>

The institution was built on a three-acre lot of land located on the South Common and known as Carie's lot. Stark states that the lot was "procured" from the city, making it unclear if it was granted, leased or given to the institution. This lot stood at the southeast corner of the original Common, bounded by Morris Street (today University Avenue), South Park Street, South Street and Tower Road. On the lot, a three-story brick building with a basement was constructed. It measured 80 feet by 30 feet and was capable of housing 40 students (Figure 3.2-25).<sup>173</sup>

The lot upon which the school stood had been named "Murdoch Square" in honour of Halifax merchant William Murdoch who left £5000 upon his death in 1867 for the creation of an asylum for the blind.<sup>174</sup> A lake measuring 120 feet by 60 feet was built on the grounds and was used for ice skating in the winter and boating in the summer. A variety of paths with distinctive tactile markers were also constructed.<sup>175</sup>

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<sup>169</sup> Pearce 2011:83.

<sup>170</sup> Pearce 2011:57

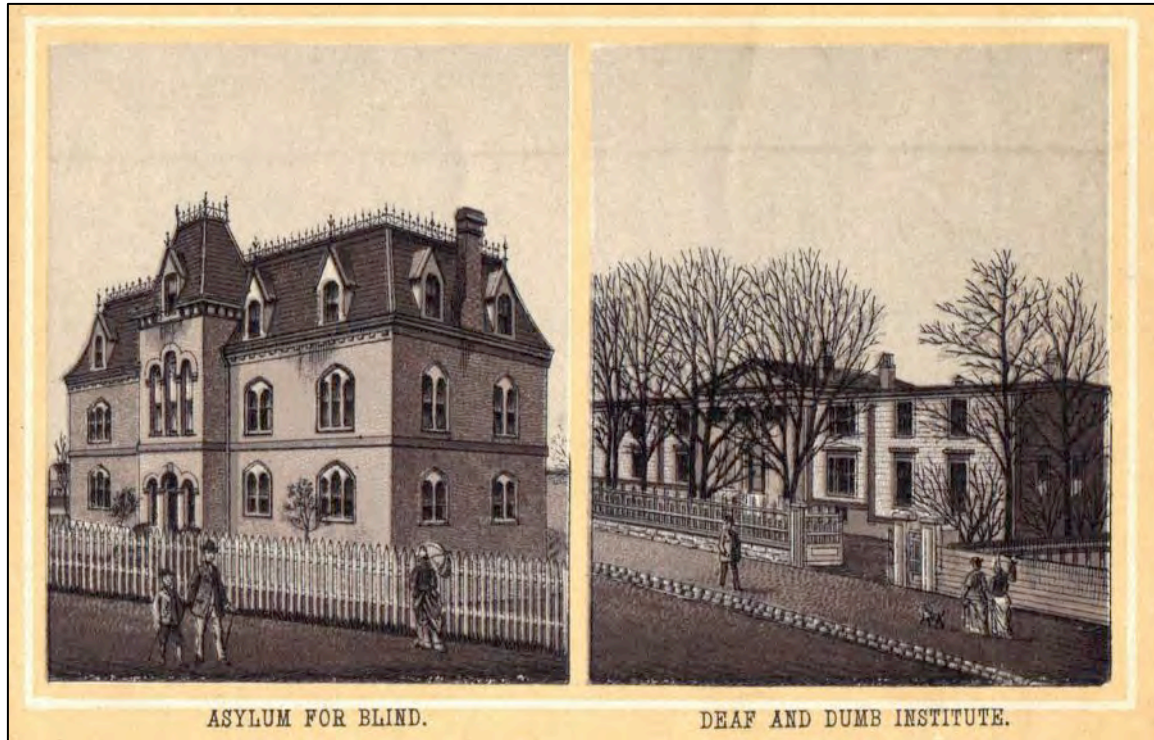
<sup>171</sup> Pearce 2011:65

<sup>172</sup> APSEA 2017 URL.

<sup>173</sup> Stark 2017:5.

<sup>174</sup> Stark 2017:6, 51.

<sup>175</sup> Stark 2017:52.



**Figure 3.2-25: The original building of the Halifax School for the Blind (left) viewed from Morris Street (today University Avenue) in an illustrated souvenir booklet from the late 1880s.<sup>176</sup>**

An additional wing was built in 1890 on the east side, measuring 54 feet by 46 feet.<sup>177</sup> Attendance at the school continued to grow, however, and second addition was built on the west side in 1896. Attendance continued to grow, however, and by 1899 there were 128 students at the school. The building complex at this time consisted of 92 rooms, including kitchens, pantries, a boys' and girls' dining room, printing office, school rooms, assembly hall, hospital rooms, dormitories and 15 music rooms.<sup>178</sup> In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a new large five-story building was constructed, with the older building being retained for use as a solely residential building and connected via an enclosed hallway (Figure 3.2-26).<sup>179</sup>

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<sup>176</sup> Archibald 2014 URL.

<sup>177</sup> Stark 2017:48.

<sup>178</sup> Stark 2017:50-51.

<sup>179</sup> Stark 2017:56.



**Figure 3.2-26: A view of the rear of the original Halifax School for the Blind and east addition from South Park Street in 1963. Note the long enclosed and windowed hallway that connects this earlier building to the "new" 20<sup>th</sup> century school building.<sup>180</sup>**

The school's infrastructure was impacted by the Halifax Explosion in 1917 and reports state that windows were shattered and plaster ceilings and internal woodwork collapsed.<sup>181</sup> The demand for hospital space, however, meant that temporary wards were opened within the school, despite the damage to the building.<sup>182</sup>

A slew of criticism arose in the early 1970s, by which point, some fully sighted students were attending classes here while other blind children were turned away. The school was criticised for doing little to help integrate blind students causing them difficulty in adjusting once they left the school. Vocational training had also diminished, with only one trade (piano tuning) being taught. Additionally, 90 percent of the school's budget came from government funding but the school was managed by the Board of Management who was unelected and unaccountable to anyone.<sup>183</sup>

Safety concerns were also present. By 1971, the school buildings were old and the last time a new structure was built on the property was in 1939. Concerns were raised about the ability of students to escape in the event of a fire, given the lack of fire escapes and wooden construction of the building.<sup>184</sup>

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<sup>180</sup> Chronicle Herald Archive 1963, Halifax School for the Blind photograph.

<sup>181</sup> Stark 2017:84-85.

<sup>182</sup> Stark 2017:86.

<sup>183</sup> Stark 2017:182-187.

<sup>184</sup> Stark 2017:164-165.

As a result of the criticisms, a 1972 report recommended broad changes and in 1975, the Halifax School for the Blind became a public institution with the creation of the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority. A few years later, in 1983, the school moved from the property on Tower Road to a new building near CFB Gorsebrook.<sup>185</sup>

In 1984, the old Halifax School for the Blind buildings are demolished and replaced with a landscaped park and parking lot for the Victoria General Hospital. At this time, the Victoria General receives permission to close Tower Road between South Street and University. The park and garden portion of parking lot are removed in 1999 to make space for additional parking spots.<sup>186</sup> A monument dedicated to the Halifax School for the Blind, funded by former students, staff and friends of the school, was erected in September 2012.<sup>187</sup>

By 1878, the institutions along the south end of the South Common included the Poor Asylum, the city hospital and the Blind Asylum, as well as the Convent of the Sacred Heart. Most of the blocks between Morris Street and College Street were empty, with just one structure and an area belonging to the Convent of the Sacred Heart depicted. By contrast, the area along Spring Garden had become quite developed (Figure 3.2-27). With the exception of a small area around Carleton Street, most of the Common to the north of Spring Garden is depicted as open public land (Figure 3.2-28). This development was likely assisted by a decision of the Halifax City Council in 1871 to sell formerly leased lots along Spring Garden. The intent of the council was to encourage development and limit public costs.<sup>188</sup>

The contrast between the open North Common, with a focus on military activity, and the more developed middle and south area of the Common, with a focus on private and institutional development is also visible on the 1879 panoramic of Halifax. The hospital (#9), Poor Asylum (#10), Institute for the Blind (#34), Convent of the Sacred Heart (#35) and Medical College (#38) are all shown on the Panorama (Figure 3.2-29).

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<sup>185</sup> Stark 2017:192-193.

<sup>186</sup> Friends of Halifax Common n.d. "Timeline" URL.

<sup>187</sup> Mercer 12 November 2012 "A former student recalls School for the Blind."

<sup>188</sup> Friends of Halifax Common n.d. "Timeline" URL

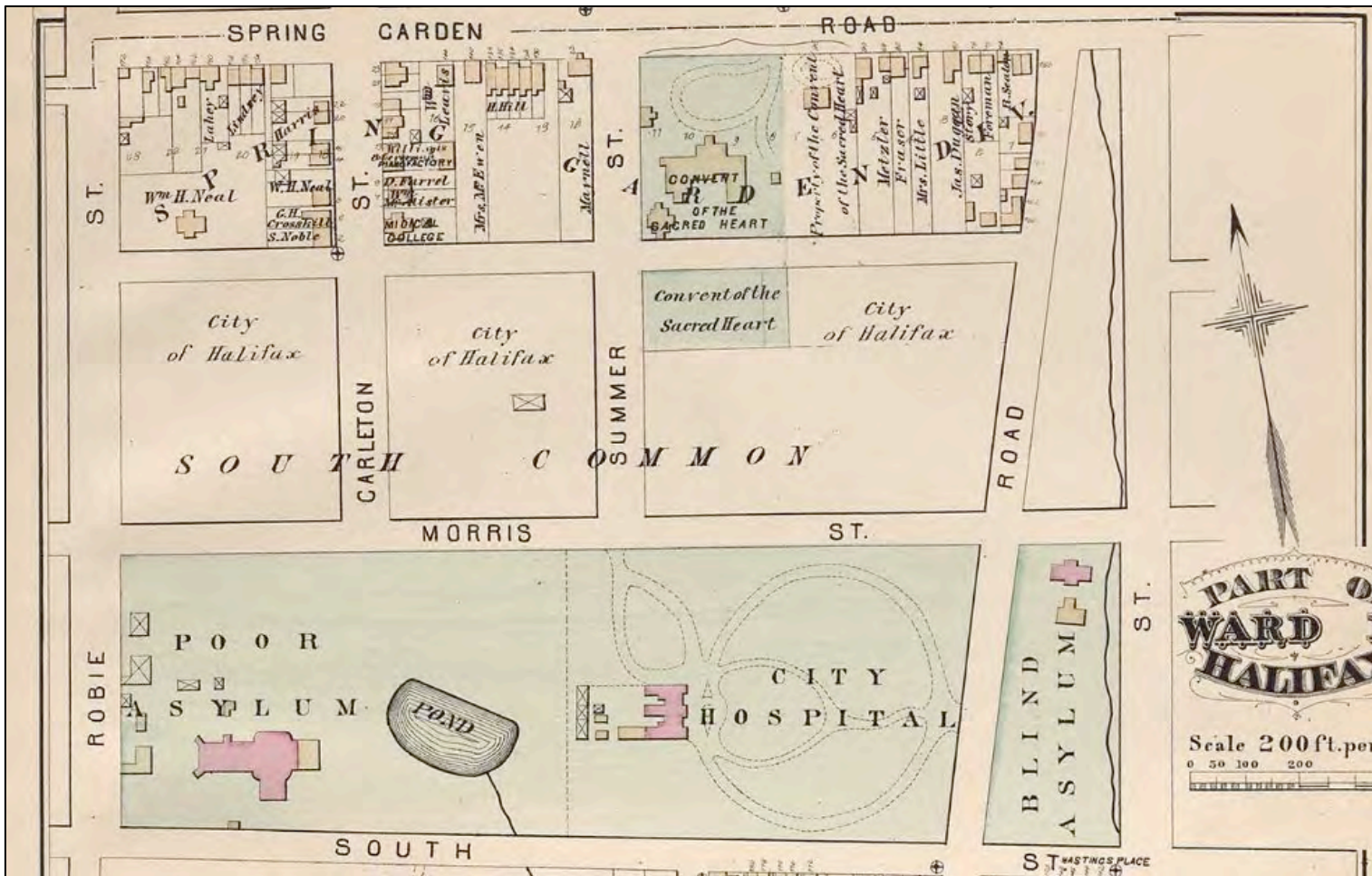


Figure 3.2-27: Hopkins' 1878 map of the South Common, showing the institutions along the south and private buildings along Spring Garden Road.<sup>189</sup>

<sup>189</sup> Hopkins 1878.

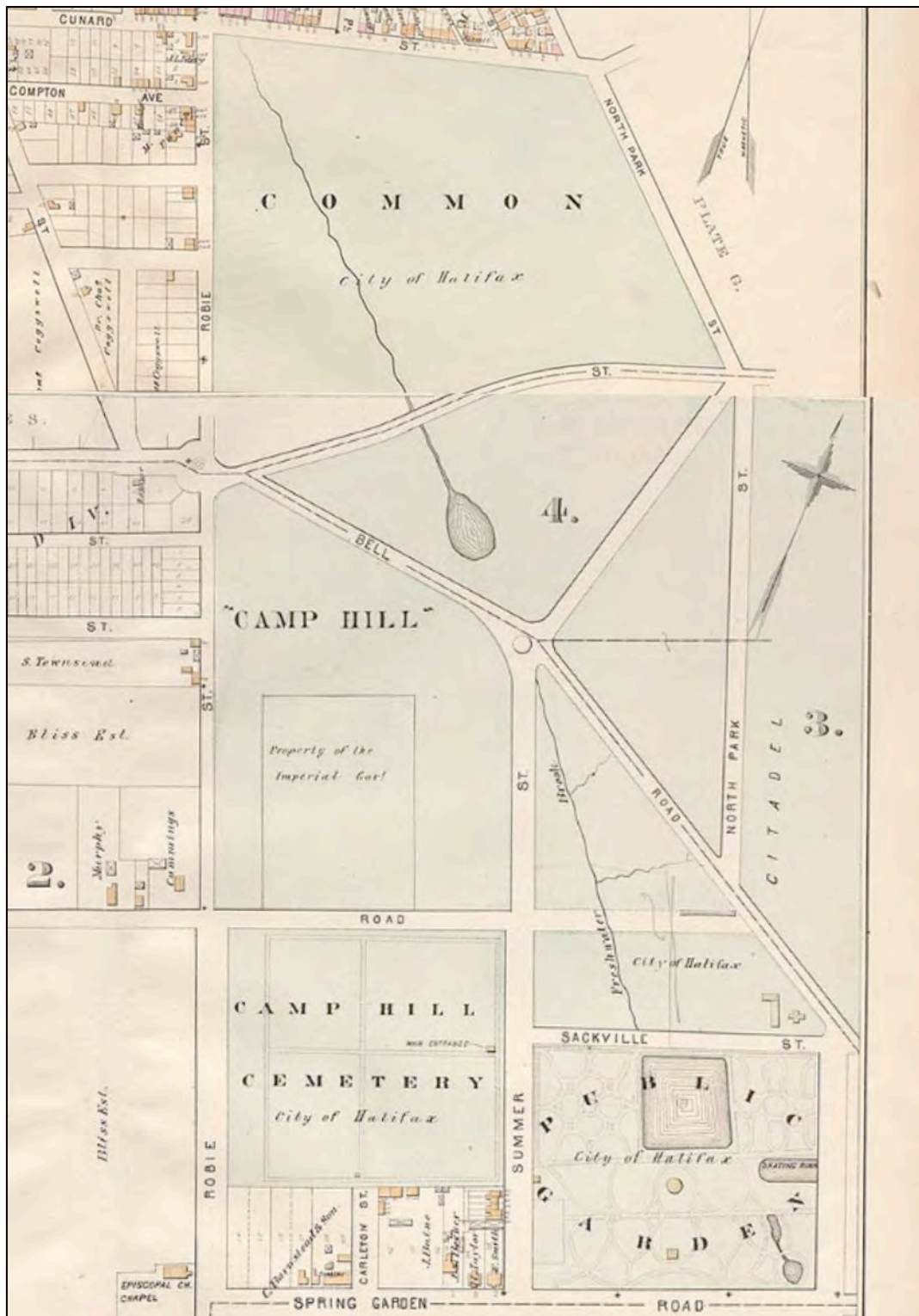
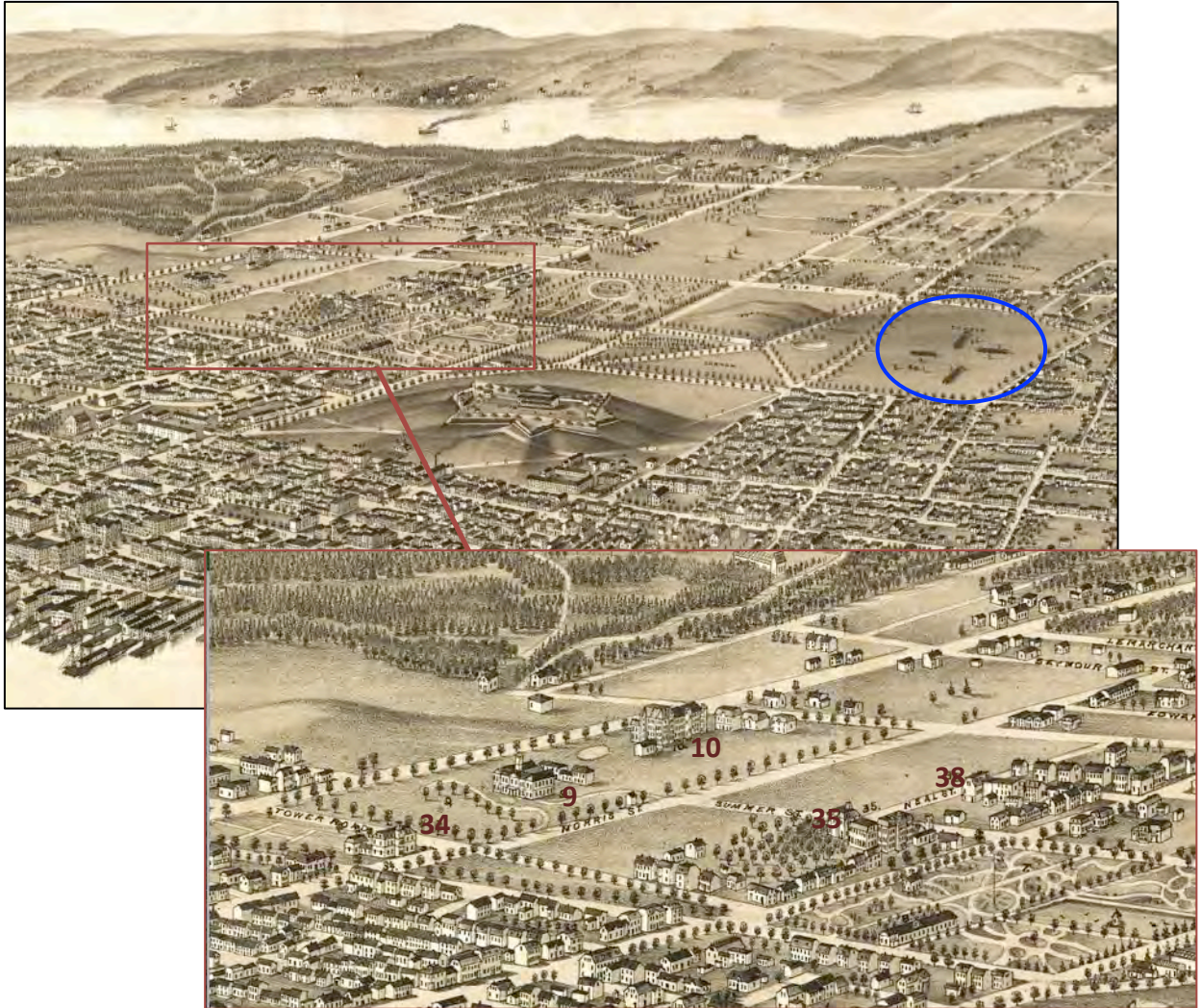


Figure 3.2-28: Hopkins' 1878 map of the Common north of Spring Garden Road.<sup>190</sup>

<sup>190</sup> Hopkins 1878.





**Figure 3.2-29: Ruger's 1879 Panoramic View of the City of Halifax, Nova Scotia, north at right, showing military exercises at the North Common (blue) and the various institutions present at the south end of the Common.<sup>191</sup>**

An 1880 map by Halifax's city engineer E. H. Keating shows a significant amount of detail in these private lots (Figure 3.2-30). In addition to private landholders, the plan shows the Exhibition Grounds, the Public Gardens, the Sacred Heart Convent, and the Dalhousie Medical College. Red lines and numbers show the original layout of the lots, while shaded and dotted red lines indicate property that had been "commuted by the payment of 20 years rental, and over which the city has no further control."

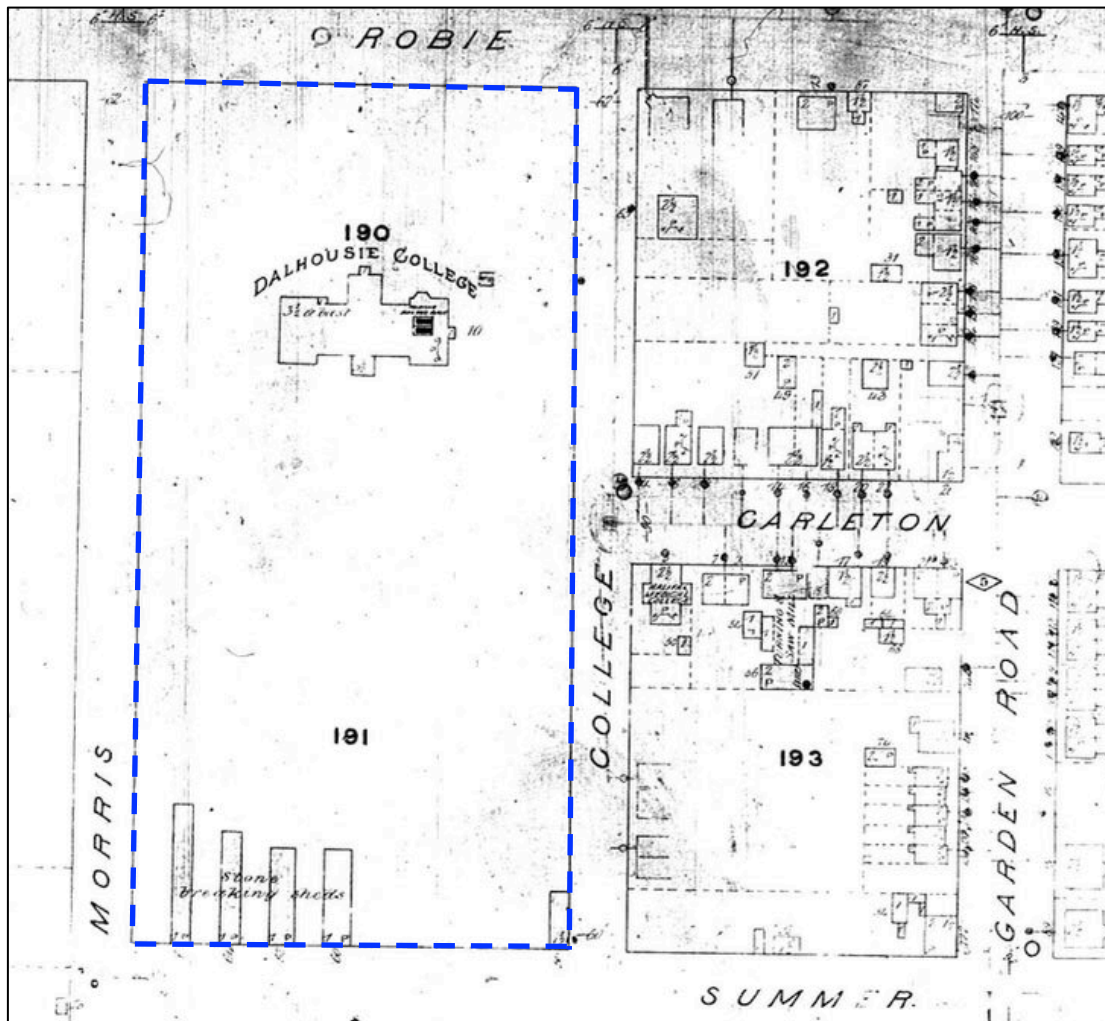
<sup>191</sup> Ruger 1879.



Figure 3.2-30: Keating's 1880 map of private lots at the south end of the Common, north at bottom. Lots that are shaded with dotted-red lines indicate the leases have been commuted by the payment of 20 years and therefore, the city has further control, like the Convent of the Sacred Heart (blue). Note the Exhibition Tower and Grounds (top) and the Public Gardens (bottom left).<sup>192</sup>

<sup>192</sup> Keating 1880.

Much of the open land in the south end of the Common depicted on Hopkins map would become part of Dalhousie University. In 1886, Dalhousie College had outgrown its buildings located on the Grand Parade in downtown Halifax. An agreement was reached with the city, trading the university building in the parade square in exchange for \$25,000 and new property in Halifax's old west end.<sup>193</sup> This property was located within the Common and had been used by the City of Halifax for storage and work spaces, including stone breaking sheds (Figure 3.2-31). Throughout the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, Dalhousie grew rapidly, eventually sprawling across two city blocks within the Common footprint between University Avenue (previously Morris) and Robie, College, and Summer Streets.

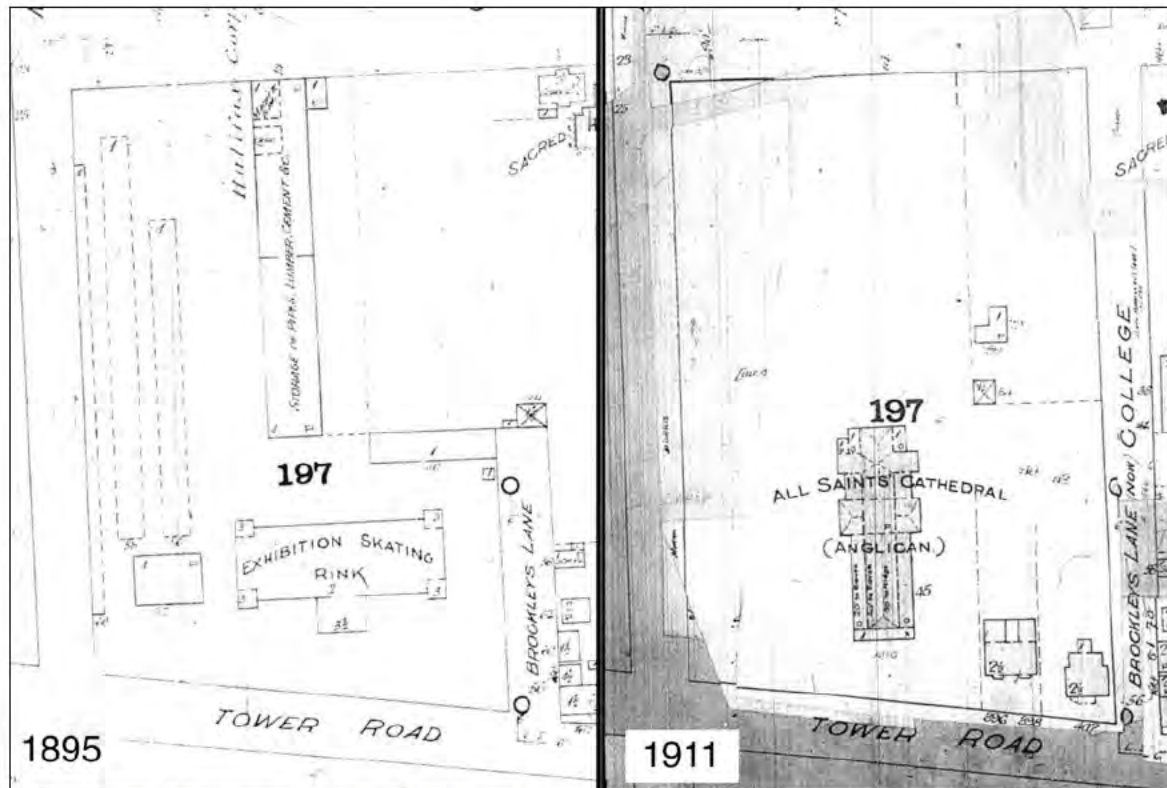


**Figure 3.2-31: 1889 fire insurance plan showing the new Dalhousie College on a property previously used by the City of Halifax, within the Common, north to the right.<sup>194</sup> Eventually, the college would expand to cover the entire block (blue).**

<sup>193</sup> Raddall 1993:225-226.

<sup>194</sup> Goad 1889, sheet 33.

Institutions were continuing to build on the Common into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1907, after a fire destroyed the wooden St. Luke's Anglican Church (located on Morris and Church Streets, outside of the study area), a new stone cathedral was constructed. This cathedral was located on the corner of Tower Road and Morris Street, where the Exhibition Building and several City of Halifax sheds and workshops were located (Figure 3.2-32). The area was chosen by Bishop Worrell because it was one of the "most commanding and central [sites] in the city, beautiful in appearance".<sup>195</sup> In 2003, following damage from Hurricane Juan, the Cathedral leased their south and north lawns for 99 years for development, in an effort to fund repair and maintenance costs.<sup>196</sup>



**Figure 3.2-32: Comparison of 1895 and 1911 fire insurance plans, north at right, showing the All Saints Cathedral location.**<sup>197</sup>

<sup>195</sup> Cathedral of All Saints n.d. URL

<sup>196</sup> Friends of Halifax Common 2013:7.

<sup>197</sup> Goad 1895, sheet 33; 1911, sheet 33

A massive amount of building within the original Common grant took place in the mid to late 20<sup>th</sup> century. While these developments were often met with public disapproval, large amounts of previously open Common land were developed into schools and hospitals, or outright sold as was the case of land on Bell Road that was sold to the CBC.<sup>198</sup> This land has recently been bought back by the province for later use as an expansion of the Halifax Infirmary Hospital site.<sup>199</sup>

In the 1940s, several schools were built within land of the Common, beginning with the construction of the Queen Elizabeth High School in 1942 at the corner of Robie Street and Bell Road, within the open space known as Camp Hill. In 1948, the Halifax Country Vocational School was built on the east side of Bell Road. The vocational school building was constructed of white stucco. The building was demolished in 2005 when the Citadel High School was built, amalgamating the Queen Elizabeth and St. Patrick's High Schools.<sup>200</sup> After demolition of the Queen Elizabeth High School, the property was transferred to Capital Health to eventually be used to expand the neighbouring Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre but is currently utilized as a community garden.<sup>201</sup>

Hospitals sites within the Common grew immensely within the 20<sup>th</sup> century including the Camp Hill Hospital (1917, 1979), Grace Maternity Hospital (1922, 1992), Victoria General Hospital (1948), Abby Lane Hospital (1971), IWK Children's Hospital (1972), Veterans Memorial Hospital (1987) and the Halifax Infirmary (1996).<sup>202</sup>

In the central Common area, these hospital and schools were built in areas that had previously been part of the original Camp Hill hospital complex or had been used by the city of Halifax for storage sheds and workshops, as was the case for the Museum of Natural History, constructed in 1970. This building replaced a variety of sheds, storage buildings, garages and workshops.<sup>203</sup>

### *Military and War Time Occupation of the Common*

The north-east “angle” of the Common was utilized as a drill ground for the city’s garrison and militia, beginning around 1799 or 1800 under the supervision of Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, who was at the time serving as the military’s commander-in-chief. The Prince ordered this 50¾-acre area levelled and “fitted for use,” approximately 3000 feet in length and varying in width up to 1000 feet.<sup>204</sup>

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<sup>198</sup> Friends of Halifax Common, n.d. "Timeline" URL

<sup>199</sup> McPhee 2 November 217 "Province buys CBC building on Bell Road for hospital expansion"

<sup>200</sup> Friends of Halifax Common 2013:25.

<sup>201</sup> "Urban farm proposed for derelict Halifax School" 7 July 2010 CBC News

<sup>202</sup> Friends of Halifax Common 2013; Friends of Halifax Common, n.d. "Timeline" URL

<sup>203</sup> Friends of Halifax Common n.d. "Timeline" URL

<sup>204</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:3.

In 1800 after Prince Edward's departure, a judicial resolution was made to permit the military's use of the drill ground and indeed the entire northern part of the Common. The land included everything north of Pyke's Bridge or Pyke's Ropewalk, or approximately 160 of the Common's 240 acres, though by 1859 the only portion of this massive stretch of the Common – everything north of Sackville Street – that was claimed by the military for this purpose was the north-east end.<sup>205</sup>

This massive allocation would later be argued by Halifax's mayor and legal counsel as an invalid decision by Halifax County's justices of the peace, who had exceeded their authority.<sup>206</sup> Much of the North Common under the military's disputed jurisdiction was "swampy an unfit for [drill ground] or any other use until recently [c.1851-1859] cleared and drained at a large expense by the city corporation."<sup>207</sup>

Despite the poor condition of the Common, it appears to have been the fashion in the early nineteenth century – ca. 1818 or 1820 – for the whole Halifax garrison, which typically included "three regiments, a part of artillery, and a company of sappers and marines," to take part in a parade on the Common each Sunday afternoon at three o'clock. Local inhabitants would also attend, as would the Governor and his staff. The entire brigade wore their regimental colours, while the artillery would assemble in a line with their field equipment for inspection by either the Governor or the Commander-in-chief of the time. They would then march around the drill ground slowly, passing by in columns and saluting whoever had done the inspection. Booths for food and beverages were not permitted during these parades, except on special occasions such as royal birthdays.<sup>208</sup>

Several provincial acts at this point prohibited any permanent walls or fences from being constructed on the Common within 600 yards of the salient angles of the citadel, except wooden fences, without permission of the commander-in-chief of the province's military. The intention of these laws was to avoid obstructions that would provide shelter for invading troops, and that smaller obstructions like wooden fences could be quickly taken down in times of war.<sup>209</sup> An 1851 revision of the act inadvertently omitted the wooden fence exception.<sup>210</sup>

In 1830, twelve acres of the Common were given over to the military in order to extend the citadel glacis.<sup>211</sup>

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<sup>205</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:11, 21.

<sup>206</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:3-4.

<sup>207</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:4.

<sup>208</sup> Akins 1895:205.

<sup>209</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:7.

<sup>210</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:4.

<sup>211</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:3.

During the 1850s, city improvements to the Common were conducted “under immediate observation, and daily and almost hourly inspection” by respective commander-in-chiefs General Gore and General LeMarchant, since the improvements were within sight of the drill ground where the generals often reviewed their troops – the drill ground still being “an impassable bog.”<sup>212</sup> This was seemingly to the annoyance of city officials, when friction between military leaders and city officials over the use of the Common came to head in the late 1850s.<sup>213</sup> After construction of the city’s fences, army authorities erected additional wooden fences around a large area forming part of the glacis and adjoining Common, “it being observable that citadel hill had originally been inclosed [*sic*] with a picket fence, but for several years had been suffered to remain quite uninclosed [*sic*] along its western bounds where it joins the Common.”<sup>214</sup>

In the summer of 1858, the city council determined to grant a free lease of the Common just west of the military drill ground to the Halifax cricket club. The military commander-in-chief of the time, Major-General Trollope, immediately voiced objections, requiring the “surrender of all the north part of the Common as a drill ground; and [... t]he prostration of all the fences erected by the city, north of the cemetery, since 1851.”<sup>215</sup> The cricket club did not get their lease as a result, but in an effort to assert the city’s claim on the Common beyond the 600-yard mark from the Citadel, another fence was put up at that location<sup>216</sup> (likely along a northeast-southwest line intersecting the present fountain on the North Common). Efforts to define the extent of jurisdiction is evident in a map from July of 1859 (Figure 3.2-33).

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1859, soldiers of the garrison went onto the common and “there pulling down and levelling the fences of one of the best grass fields the city had inclosed [*sic*].”<sup>217</sup> This included the fence erected past the 600 yard mark, possibly on the grounds that Major-General Trollope and Colonel Nelson (commander of the Royal Engineers) was asserting his right to use the entire northern end of the common for military exercise and that the fence “impeded” his use of it for that purpose.<sup>218</sup>

The newly-planted trees and shrubs were thus destroyed, and the grass ruined by stray cattle. When the General’s intention to drill his men on the newly opened and improved ground became clear, Halifax’s Mayor and city council organized a formal petition to Queen Victoria to intervene, stating an intention to take the matter to the supreme

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<sup>212</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:6.

<sup>213</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:4.

<sup>214</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:5.

<sup>215</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:5.

<sup>216</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:37-38.

<sup>217</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:6, 38.

<sup>218</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:37.

court of the province, making Major-General Trollope personally responsible for trespass.<sup>219</sup>

A second section of fence for one of the triangular fields was also pulled down on or around May 16<sup>th</sup>, this one notably being “the field in which the tool-house stands,”<sup>220</sup> though unfortunately this tool-house does not appear on any map. Correspondence between the City Council’s recorder (and noted lawyer and historian) Beamish Murdoch and the Major-General’s law clerk J. W. Ritchie became increasingly testy, from an outright accusation by Murdoch to a response from Ritchie beginning, “MY DEAR MURDOCH,” and providing a flat denial of his client’s involvement.<sup>221</sup>

In June 1859, a formal action against Richard J. Nelson (presumably of the Royal Engineers) was instituted in the Supreme Court.<sup>222</sup> The final results of this dispute are outlined in an 1860 agreement between the War Department and the City of Halifax, stating that all areas north of Camp Hill Cemetery should be left “open and unenclosed and free from any obstruction to the exercising and encamping the Troops thereon, save except the three grass fields situate on the Northward of the Horticultural Gardens.”<sup>223</sup> The fields in question are shown in green on Figure 3.2-33.

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<sup>219</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:6, 31.

<sup>220</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:38-39.

<sup>221</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:39.

<sup>222</sup> Halifax City Council 1859:39.

<sup>223</sup> War Department 1860.





Figure 3.2-33: An 1859 plan of the common shows the exercising ground and proposed cricket ground (pink), military ownership at Camp Hill (yellow), and other features of the time.<sup>224</sup>

<sup>224</sup> Halifax Municipal Archives 1859.

Certain military events appear to have expanded into other portions of the Common. In June 1881, military headquarters wrote to the mayor stating, “[i]t would very materially improve the programme for the Review on the occasion of the visit of his Excellency the Governor General if the Troops were permitted to skirmish through the triangular piece of ground enclosed between Jubilee Road, Summer Street & Bell Road.” This area, now occupied by the Museum of Natural History and the Halifax Junior Bengal Lancers, was described as having old “pailings” (or palings; wooden fencing) around it with several existing openings, and permission was requested to remove a few single palings to be replaced after the Review.<sup>225</sup>

Although today the Halifax Armoury dominates the streetscape of the North Park Street/Cunard corner, this corner would have looked very different prior to its construction. This area between John’s Lane (now Armoury Place) and Cunard Street was described as housing “shanties” and was considered to be a slum in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Instead of building the Armoury on the Common, “authorities had improved the city by clearing away a block of slums down to Maynard Street. . .”<sup>226</sup> A plan drawn in 1894 depicts the properties, houses, outbuildings and barns which were cleared to make way for the Armoury.

The construction of the Armoury began in 1894. Built of red freestone and brick, all from quarries in Nova Scotia, it was to be one of the most impressive drill halls in Canada and continues to be one of the most iconic structures still standing in Halifax.<sup>227</sup> By 1896 a work yard on the Common for the cutting of freestone and granite was in full gear, with the air reported to have been filled with the sound of hammer on stone.<sup>228</sup> The Armoury was all but complete by June 21<sup>st</sup>, 1899, when a grand Charity Ball for the Infant’s Home was held in the drill hall, which dwarfed the attendants.<sup>229</sup> On the night June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1899 nearly 500 members of the 66<sup>th</sup> P.L.F. marched from their formal drill hall on Spring Garden Road to their new home at the Armoury.<sup>230</sup> Upon completion, it was reported that the main drill hall could hold about eight thousand people.<sup>231</sup>

Despite development taking place in the form of the Halifax Armoury, the North Common area maintained aspects of a rural landscape, creating a dichotomy of urban and rural life. In a photograph dated to 1899, cows can be seen grazing on Citadel Hill to the south of North Park Street, demonstrating the enduring rural landscape nature of the area (Figure 3.2-34). Yet at the other end of North Park Street, stood the brand new Halifax Armoury, and a tram line running through the North Park / Cunard / Agricola intersection, another sign of urban development (Figure 3.2-35).

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<sup>225</sup> “Headquarters” 1881.

<sup>226</sup> Blakeley 1949, 202.

<sup>227</sup> *Halifax Herald*, September 29, 1896.

<sup>228</sup> *Halifax Herald*, September 29, 1896.

<sup>229</sup> *Morning Chronicle*, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1899, 3.

<sup>230</sup> *Halifax Herald*, June 28, 1899, 1.

<sup>231</sup> *Halifax Herald*, June 28, 1899, 1.



**Figure 3.2-34: Photograph of North Park Street taken from Citadel Hill. Note the cows grazing on Citadel Hill itself (bottom left).<sup>232</sup>**



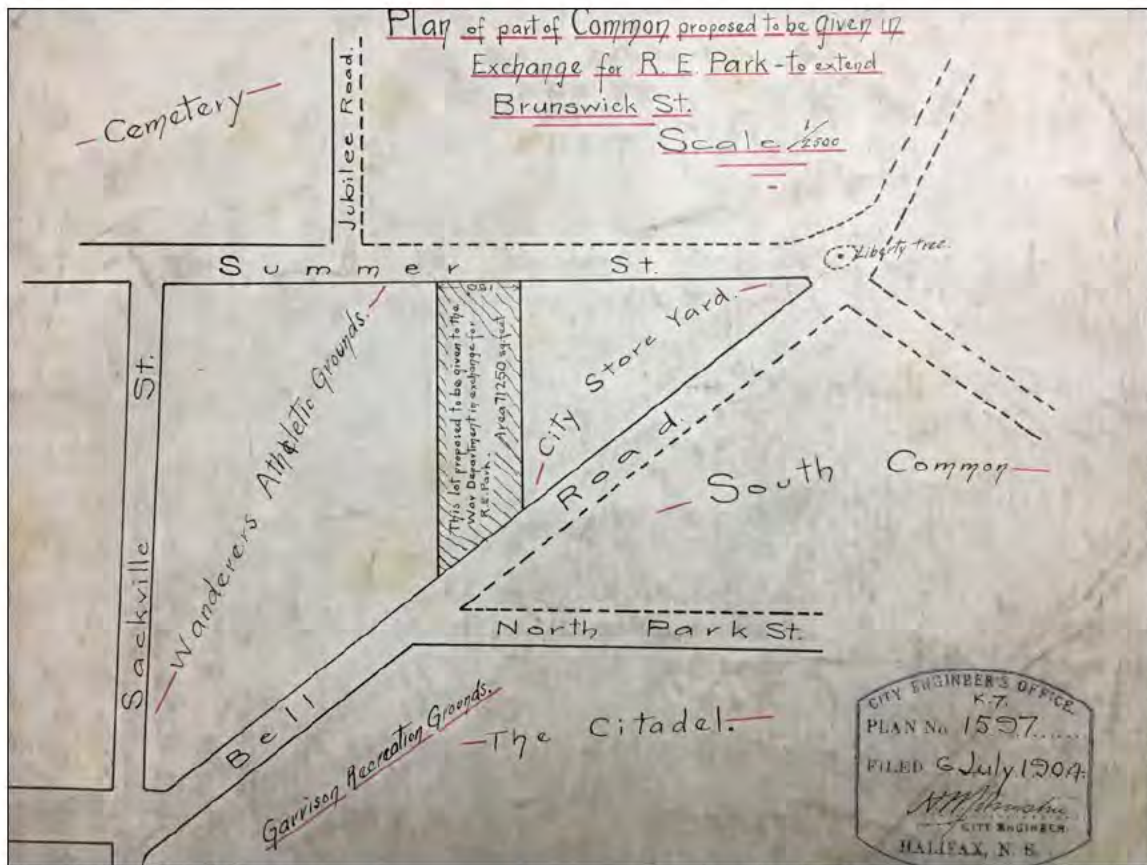
**Figure 3.2-35: Photograph of the Halifax Armoury and the North Park / Cunard / Agricola intersection.<sup>233</sup> Note the tram rails and lines running down Cunard Street.**

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<sup>232</sup> Carre 1899.

Military use and control of the North Common continued into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, most notably during the World War I. A Military Lands Board Report from 1915 notes that no obstructions in the form of buildings or fences were allowed within 600 meters of the Citadel.<sup>234</sup> The Halifax Military Land Boards Report from 1915 emphasizes the continued importance of the North Common to the defence of Halifax, including the area's potential for landing aircraft.<sup>235</sup>

In 1904, a 71250-square-foot section of the Common located between the present Wanderer's Grounds and the Museum of Natural History / Halifax Junior Bengal Lancers was proposed for transfer to the War Department in exchange for the Royal Engineer's Park (Figure 3.2-36). This transfer does not appear to have occurred as both the 1914 and 1951 fire insurance plans show that this section was later heavily built up with industrial buildings and sheds belonging to the City of Halifax (Figure 3.2-37).



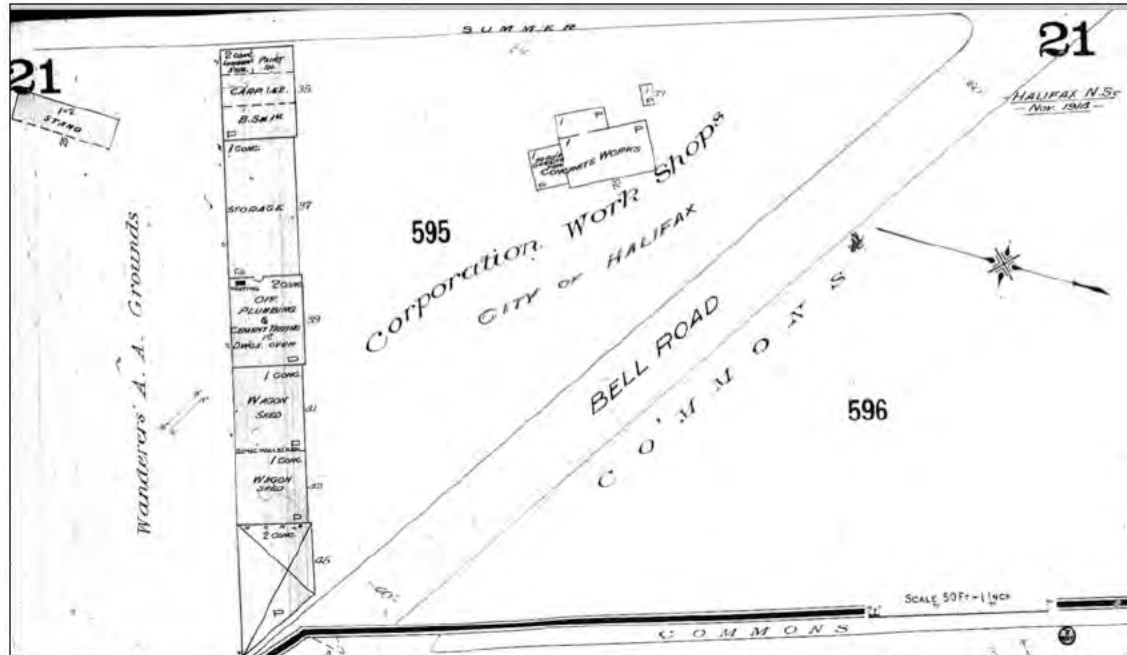
**Figure 3.2-36: A plan of land proposed for transfer to the War Department (shaded) beside the Wanderers Grounds, north to right.**<sup>236</sup>

<sup>233</sup> Carre 1899.

<sup>234</sup> Department of Militia and Defence Canada 1916:104.

<sup>235</sup> Department of Militia and Defence Canada 1916: 104.

<sup>236</sup> City Engineer's Office 1904.



**Figure 3.2-37: 1914 fire insurance plan showing the area bounded by the Wanderers Grounds, Bell Road and Summer Street, filled with workshops and sheds belonging to the City of Halifax, north at right.**

The first recorded instance of Camp Hill being a military medical site was during the Asiatic cholera epidemic in 1834.<sup>237</sup> Cholera struck its victims down with little to no warning. Numbers compiled by the *Acadian Recorder* from the September 6, 1834 estimated a daily average of 35 new cases and 9 to 18 deaths per day for the week spanning August 31<sup>st</sup> to September 6<sup>th</sup>.<sup>238</sup> Within the first six weeks of the epidemic, there were at least 762 recorded cases and 284 deaths. The military would be one of the first groups affected by the outbreak. When the garrison barracks became infected, troops were moved out to the open air in order to disinfect the buildings. Many would reside and be tended to in tents on Camp Hill.<sup>239</sup> By August 28<sup>th</sup>, the military would lose 103 men to the epidemic.<sup>240</sup>

With the dawning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the new horrors of modern warfare arising from the First World War led to a heavy demand for military medical services in Halifax and across Canada. Prior to the War, the Federal Government had provided medical care for its active militia and disabled veterans in a small number of military hospitals, with the majority seeking treatment in civilian hospitals. By 1915, the mounting casualty list strained the system and led to the establishment of the Military Hospital Commission

<sup>237</sup> Camp Hill Historical Committee 1985:1.

<sup>238</sup> *Acadian Recorder* 6 September 1834 Vol. 22 No. 36

<sup>239</sup> Raddall 2007:171.

<sup>240</sup> Medical Society of Nova Scotia 1935:592.

(MHC). The Commission first strived to place the wounded in private homes, but this soon proved to be inadequate. Thus, the MHC began to seek funding to support an extensive hospital building program.<sup>241</sup>

During the initial years of the Great War, the Cogswell Street Military Hospital would be used for the treatment and convalescence of wounded veterans returning from overseas. By 1917, resources were over taxed and more purpose-built facilities would be needed. On March 3 1917, the city of Halifax gave permission to the MHC to use Camp Hill as a location for a new veteran's hospital. Believing that this would only be a brief measure to service wartime needs, temporary materials were used with the intention of the hospital to be torn down soon after the war. By September 1917 the white stucco building, with an intended 20-year lifespan at the most, would be completed.<sup>242</sup> Complaints of smoke from low chimney in 1920, would lead to the construction of a permanent brick building.<sup>243</sup>

This new facility would consist of six connected buildings on the site between Robie and Summer streets. The patient capacity was between 250 and 300, with all staff being military personnel. The First Nurses were Matrons and Nursing Sisters from the Royal Canadian Medical Corps. Four to five Nursing Sisters supervised the wards and with most day to day nursing routines performed by male medical attendants.<sup>244</sup>

On December 6 1917, the facility would test its mettle in the aftermath of the Halifax explosion. During the first day Camp Hill had admitted over 1400 victims (Figure 3.2-38).<sup>245</sup> Camp Hill had suffered only minor damage, with only a few broken windows and a small amount of ceiling damage. Repairs were quickly made to help relieve the pressure on the Victoria General, the Children's Hospital, and Halifax Infirmary. Camp Hill would once again be the site of an encampment when it received many relief tents and temporary homes.<sup>246</sup> All ambulatory cases admitted prior to the explosion were moved to make room for the influx. Camp Hill had treated the largest number of cases from the explosion of all the City hospitals.<sup>247</sup>

In 1932, Camp Hill had entered an agreement with the Victoria General Hospital to treat ill mariners to alleviate the strain on the VG. This would set the stage for the 1938 smallpox outbreak.<sup>248</sup> Camp Hill Hospital was under quarantine in 1938 when it

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<sup>241</sup> Camp Hill Historical Committee 1988: 3.

<sup>242</sup> Camp Hill Historical Committee 1988:4.

<sup>243</sup> McGuigan 2007:165.

<sup>244</sup> Camp Hill Historical Committee 1988:4.

<sup>245</sup> Camp Hill Historical Committee 1988:6

<sup>246</sup> McGuigan 2007:165.

<sup>247</sup> Camp Hill Historical Committee 1988:6.

<sup>248</sup> Cameron 1988:100.

admitted an ill mariner from the freighter S.S. City of Auckland.<sup>249</sup> Approximately 50 staff members were quarantined at Rockhead Hospital and were transported daily to Camp Hill. Patients and staff who were well enough were vaccinated, however this left several patients unimmunized. Several staff contracted smallpox in spite of vaccinations, and their contacts were quarantined and also vaccinated. Initially a partial quarantine, the hospital became a complete quarantine.<sup>250</sup> Veterans and ill mariners that would normally be admitted, were taken in by surrounding hospitals. The initial infected mariner had passed away, but all infected hospital staff would recover.<sup>251</sup> The outbreak would enforce the need for Halifax to have a separate infectious diseases hospital as well as change policies surrounding quarantine procedures for vessels arriving from infected ports.<sup>252</sup>



**Figure 3.2-38: The main entrance of the Camp Hill Hospital during the aftermath of the Halifax explosion, 1917.<sup>253</sup>**

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<sup>249</sup> Camp Hill Historical Committee 1988:7.

<sup>250</sup> Camp Hill Historical Committee 1988:11.

<sup>251</sup> Camp Hill Historical Committee 1988:13.

<sup>252</sup> Cameron 1988:103.

<sup>253</sup> Angus 5 December 2017 URL.

During the onset of World War Two, Camp Hill was once again at capacity. In 1941, Pavilions B and C would be constructed to remedy this. In 1945, a reorganisation of the Treatment Services at the Department of Veteran Affairs would greatly improve the care supplied at Camp Hill and accommodations of its patients. Several annex and maintenance buildings would be constructed alongside the Robie Street building in 1948 (Figure 3.2-39, Figure 3.2-40).<sup>254</sup>

The Abbie J Lane Memorial Hospital opened in August 1971 to address the cities growing need for a modern mental health facility. Containing 196 beds, the hospital was sold to the province and the Lane Hospital merged with Camp Hill in May 1981.<sup>255</sup> In 1978, the ownership of Camp Hill was transferred from the Department of Veterans Affairs to the Province. From this point on, the hospital would evolve into a community institution. In October 1987, the new Veterans Memorial building would be opened. The Halifax Infirmary would amalgamate with Camp Hill forming the Camp Hill Medical Centre in 1988.<sup>256</sup>



**Figure 3.2-39: Camp Hill Hospital, Pavilion's C & B, taken from the south-west corner of Robie St. and Jubilee Rd, 1964.**<sup>257</sup>

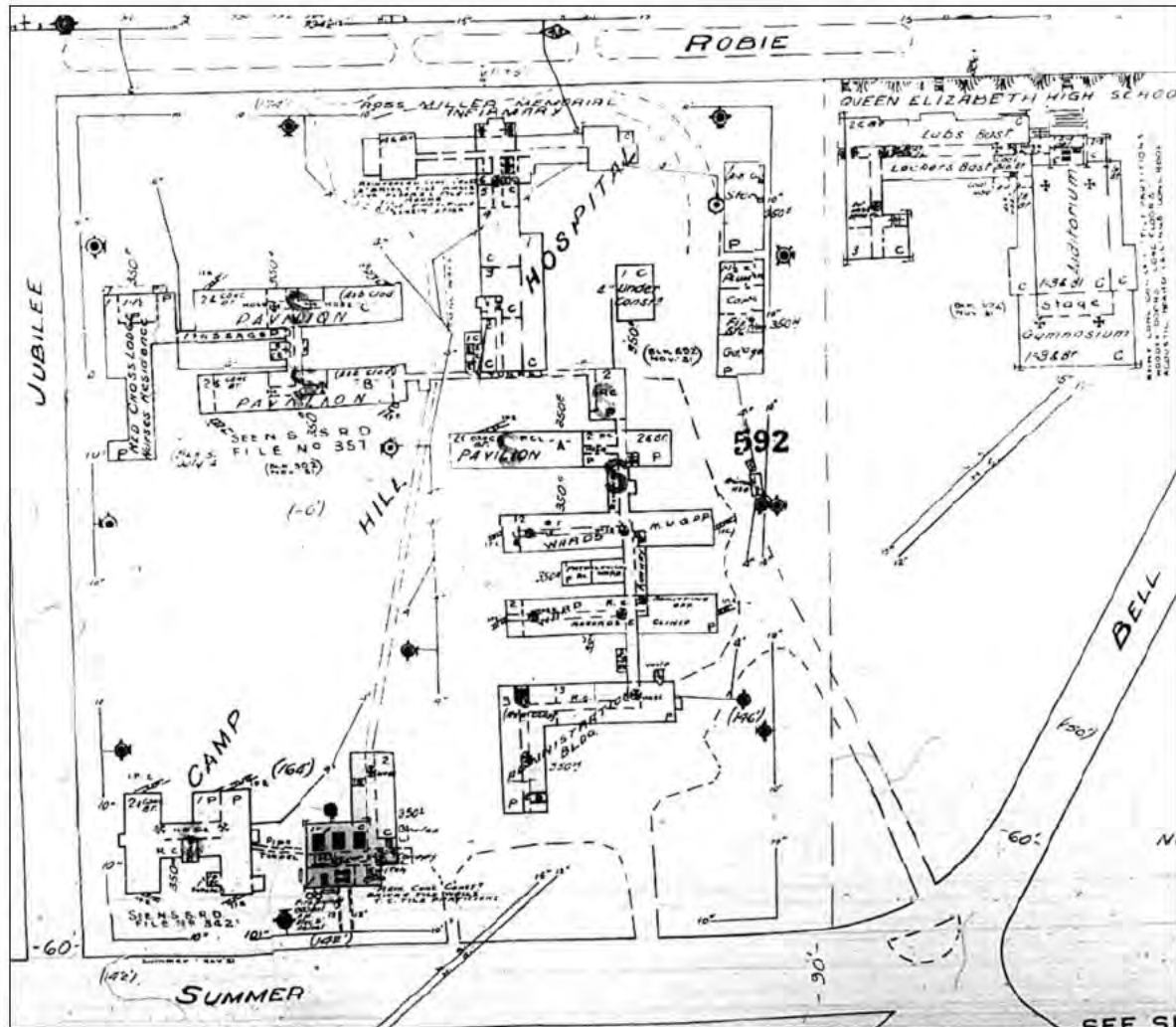
<sup>254</sup> Camp Hill Historical Committee 1988:28.

<sup>255</sup> Camp Hill Historical Committee 1988:38.

<sup>256</sup> Camp Hill Historical Committee 1988:39.

<sup>257</sup> HRM Archives Police Department Photograph 102-16N-0016.17.





**Figure 3.2-40: 1951 fire insurance plan of the Camp Hill hospital complex, showing the newly constructed pavilions, north to right.**<sup>258</sup>

In 1996, the *Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre Act* was passed formalizing the amalgamation of the Camp Hill Medical Centre, Victoria General Hospital, Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre, and the Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation of Nova Scotia into the QEII Health Sciences Centre. Two years later, the new Halifax Infirmary on Summer Street would open and include the Camp Hill Veterans Memorial Building and Abbie J. Lane building.<sup>259</sup>

During World War One, the soldiers of the 85th Battalion, known as the Highland Battalion, resided on the North Common. The raising of the 85<sup>th</sup> Battalion was authorized in Ottawa on Sept. 14, 1915.<sup>260</sup> Recruitment for each company was allotted

<sup>258</sup> Goad 1951, sheet 59.

<sup>259</sup> Nova Scotia Health Authority n.d. URL

<sup>260</sup> Hunt 1920:99

to different sections of the province. Recruits for “A” Company were drawn from Pictou, Cumberland, and Colchester Counties; “B” Company from Lunenburg, Queens, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Digby, Annapolis, Antigonish, and Guysborough; “C” Company from Halifax, Hants, and Kings; and “D” from Cape Breton.<sup>261</sup> The Battalion had well over the required number of men within four weeks.

Orders from Ottawa came in on Oct.14, 1915 for the Battalion to be mobilized in full strength and headquartered at the Armoury.<sup>262</sup> The first Battalion parade took place that day, displaying the diversity of the men who comprised the Unit. There were no uniforms, just men from all walks of life marching at a common level with “... farmers and manufacturers amongst the officers, while clergymen, college professors, and teachers paraded shoulder to shoulder in the rank and file.”<sup>263</sup> By Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> there were nearly one thousand men under canvas on the Halifax Common. The Battalion was 200 men over-strength.<sup>264</sup> Intense training began immediately, with drilling taking place on the Common.<sup>265</sup>

“A” Company quartered in the Armoury while the remaining three Companies tented on the Common. The Commanding Officers made sure that all officers slept under canvas so long as the rank and file slept in makeshift conditions.<sup>266</sup> Barracks were eventually constructed on the North Common, in front of the Armoury, for the soldier’s quarters during the winter months. Though cheaply constructed, they were outfitted with modern comforts including large washrooms, lavatories, and shower baths. Three rows of double bunks were provided with a window between each tier.<sup>267</sup> Their huts were well-heated with ventilators installed in the sides and the roof. A photo taken in 1915 shows the men of the 85th Battalion gathered on the Common before taking residence in their winter accommodations, shown in the background (Figure 3.2-41).

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<sup>261</sup> Hayes 1920:22

<sup>262</sup> Hayes 1920:22

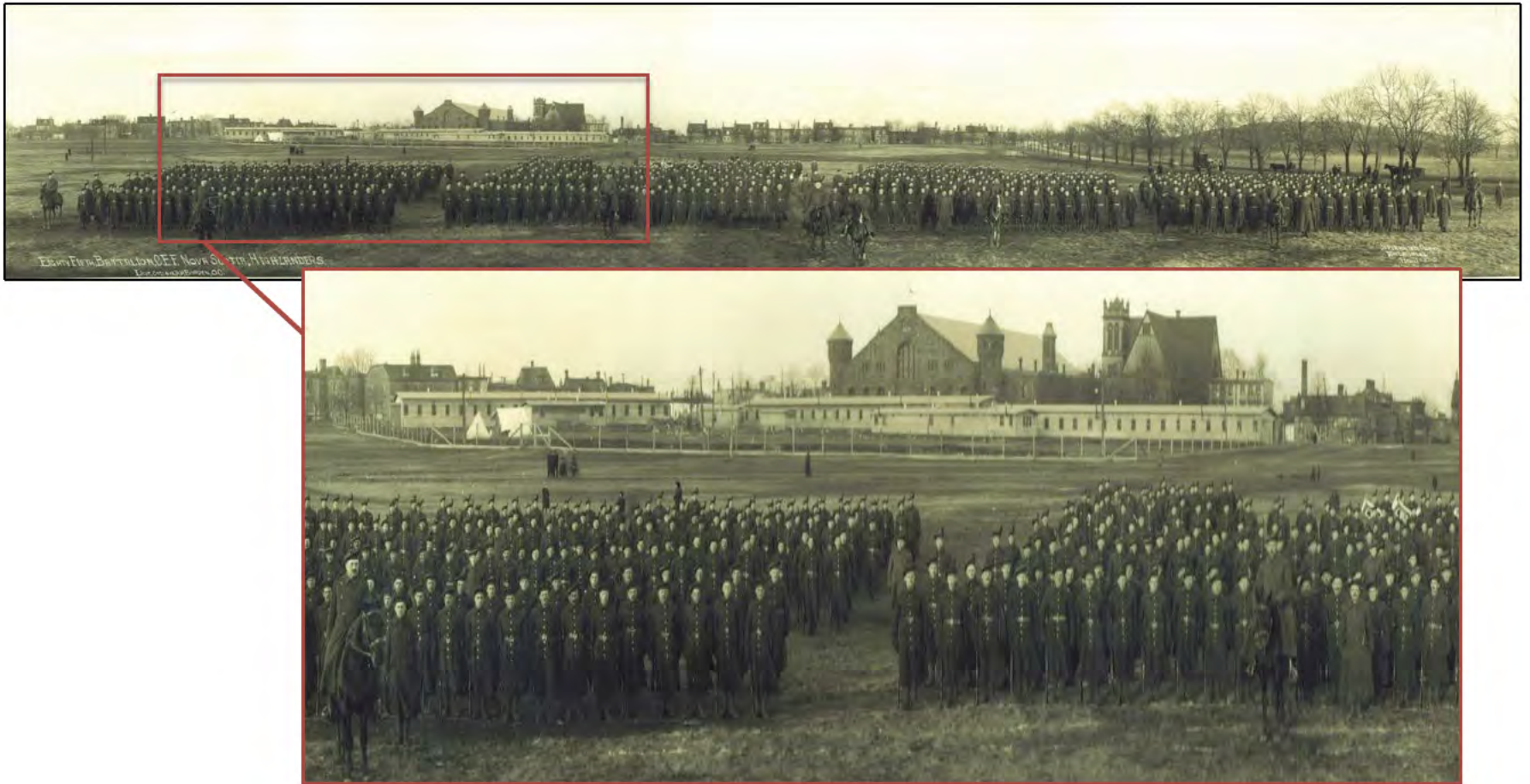
<sup>263</sup> Hayes 1920:22

<sup>264</sup> Mitchell 1919:5

<sup>265</sup> Hayes 1920:24

<sup>266</sup> Hayes 1920:24

<sup>267</sup> Hayes 1920:24



**Figure 3.2-41: 1915 photograph of the 85th Battalion on the North Common, with their winter accommodations visible in the background, looking northeast over the North Common to the Armoury on North Park Street.<sup>268</sup>**

<sup>268</sup> MacLaughlan 1915. Army Museum, Citadel Hill.

The success in raising the 85<sup>th</sup> Battalion raised the possibility of forming an entire Nova Scotia Highland Brigade, which was granted on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 1916. The province was sectioned, with each Battalion being allotted an area for recruiting. The drive began on February 27<sup>th</sup>, and within 22 days the Brigade was fully raised. It was a feat without equal in Canada.<sup>269</sup> The 85<sup>th</sup> were instrumental in this success. Their example inspired the people of the province and placed pressure on those who had not yet enlisted. Men of the 85<sup>th</sup> travelled across the province to assist in the effort, including the regimental band whose “...skirl of the pipers carried as eloquent a message of patriotism as any orator”.<sup>270</sup> The three new Battalions, the 185<sup>th</sup>, 193<sup>rd</sup>, and 219<sup>th</sup> together with the 85<sup>th</sup>, formed the Nova Scotia Highland Brigade. The 85<sup>th</sup> did its duty as the senior-most unit of the Brigade, assisting in training and organization of the new recruits.<sup>271</sup>

The 85<sup>th</sup> continued to be headquartered at the Armoury though they remained with the rest of the Brigade stationed in Aldershot for training. Delayed by the raising and training of the Brigade, the 85<sup>th</sup> were finally granted an end to their restlessness when it was arranged that they would be sent overseas. They left for England aboard the *H.M. Transport Olympic* on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1916.<sup>272</sup> Their send-off at the Common was passionate, and when they sailed for England “...the heart of this Province went with it, and the soul’s eye watched across the ocean”.<sup>273</sup>

The 85th Battalion fought at Vimy Ridge and continued serving throughout France. Following the Armistice, the 85<sup>th</sup> crossed back through France to England on the first of May, 1919. They arrived in Halifax on June 8<sup>th</sup>, and two days later marched the streets of Halifax and were welcomed home.<sup>274</sup>

A Department of Militia and Defence map dated to 1918 shows the location of the barracks, mess rooms and kitchens, and other supporting structures, which had grown substantially since 1915, with more proposed in the southeast (shaded; possibly never built). The northeast corner of the Common had buildings opposite the Halifax Armouries. It is these buildings depicted in the 1915 photograph above. The officer’s mess is located in the middle of the North Common and other barracks, canteens, and mess hall buildings are located along Robie Street (Figure 3.2-42). A similar map shows that the barracks clusters had names – Borden Barracks, Mewburn Barracks, and Elliott Barracks, along with a temporary hospital near the Mewburn Barracks (Figure 3.2-43). The original 1915 buildings on the northeast corner of the North Common were gone by 1921. The rest of the buildings were removed by 1928.<sup>275</sup>

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<sup>269</sup> Hayes 1920:27

<sup>270</sup> Mitchell 1919:5

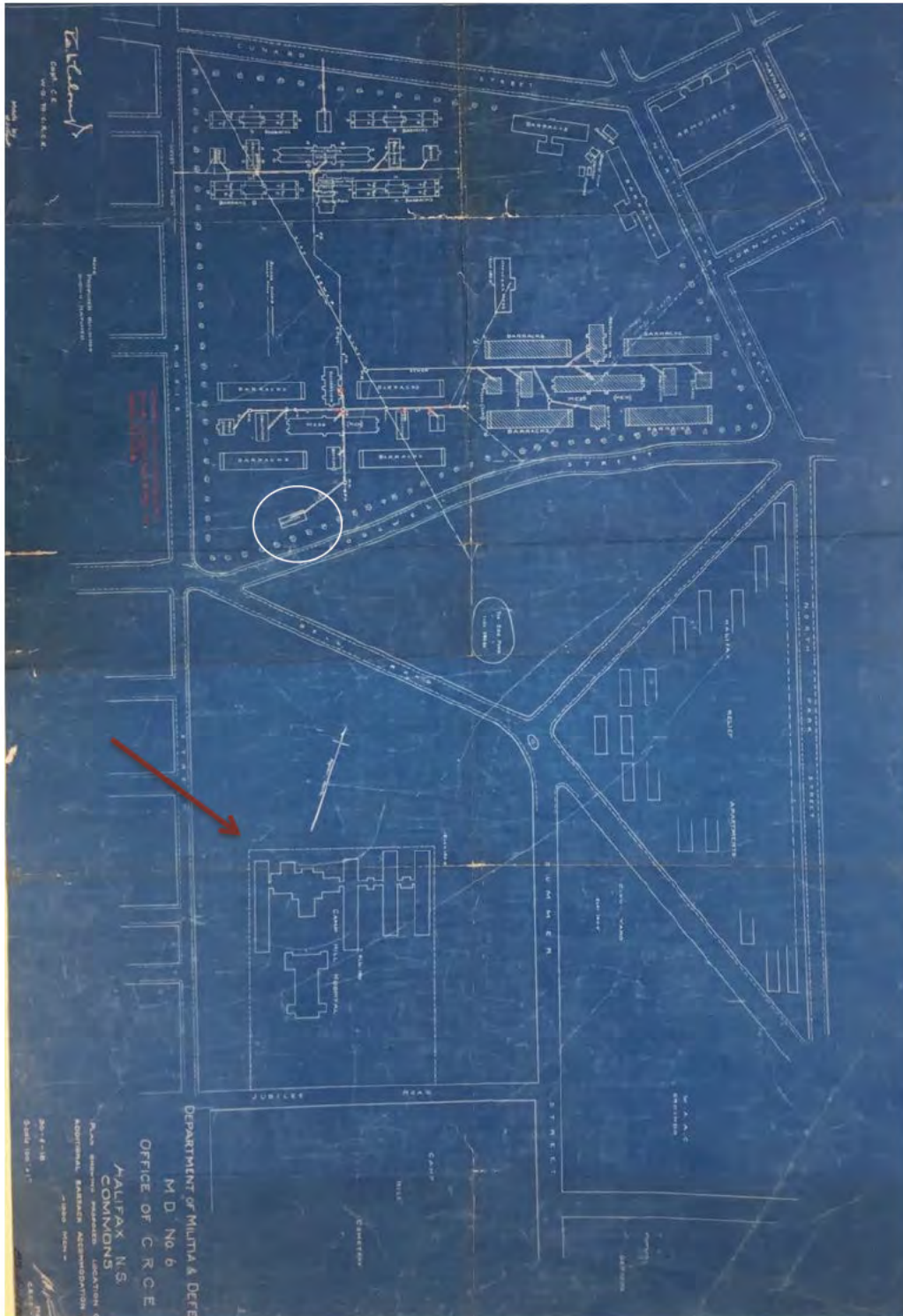
<sup>271</sup> Hunt 1920:99

<sup>272</sup> Hunt 1920:99

<sup>273</sup> Brown 1919:3

<sup>274</sup> Brown 1919:100

<sup>275</sup> Piers 1947, 64.



**Figure 3.2-42: 1918 Department of Militia & Defence map showing the military buildings on North Common, north at top.<sup>276</sup> A small hospital is also shown at the bottom left of the North Common (white), possibly temporary given that the Camp Hill Hospital complex is also present by this time (red).**

<sup>276</sup> Department of Militia & Defence 1918.



**Figure 3.2-43: A c.1918-1921 map showing the oldest barracks opposite the Armouries (top right), along with three other barrack clusters: Borden (top left), Mewburn (bottom left), and Elliott (bottom right), north at top.<sup>277</sup>**

In addition to the presence of barracks and soldiers on the Common itself, citizens of Halifax also took up temporary residence here during the war. The Halifax Explosion's devastating effect on the city not only killed and injured thousands of people, it also displaced 10,000 people.<sup>278</sup> The Halifax Relief Commission was quickly formed and began to act. The Engineering and Ordnance Corps began erecting shelters, which consisted of rows of tents pitched on the North Common near Cunard Street, with canvas floors, cots and oil stoves (Figure 3.2-44).<sup>279</sup>

<sup>277</sup> City Engineer's Office c.1918-1921.

<sup>278</sup> Morton 1989:73.

<sup>279</sup> CRM Group Ltd. 2011:8; Kitz 1989:56-59.



**Figure 3.2-44: Emergency temporary tents on the North Common after the Halifax Explosion.<sup>280</sup>**

Due to the previous acts that prohibited the building of structures on the Common, the Halifax City Council had to ask for the consent of the military authorities in order to build emergency structures on the Common.<sup>281</sup> This was granted and within days of the explosion, soldiers began building on the North Common. Temporary buildings made of "board-and-tarpaper" were constructed,<sup>282</sup> and a temporary hospital (Camp Hill) for over 200 injured individuals was also built.<sup>283</sup> The tenements would only have two to four rooms but provided housing for more than a thousand people. Forty-four buildings were constructed on a triangle of land bounded by Bell Road, Trollope Street and Ahern Avenue, where Citadel High School now stands (Figure 3.2-46 and Figure 3.2-46).<sup>284</sup> Aid organizations, including the Red Cross and Salvation Army also maintained a presence in the temporary housing.<sup>285</sup>

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<sup>280</sup> Nova Scotia Archives V/F vol. 243 no.18.

<sup>281</sup> Halifax Municipal Archives: Halifax City Council Submissions

<sup>282</sup> Raddall 2007:250.

<sup>283</sup> CRM Group Ltd. 2011:8; Kitz 1989:56-59.

<sup>284</sup> Raddall 2007:256.

<sup>285</sup> CRM Group Ltd. 2011:8; Kitz 1989:56-59.



**Figure 3.2-45: The 1921 aerial photographs (overlay by Dirk Werle, 2015) which show the Common, north at right.<sup>286</sup> The Halifax Explosion temporary housing (triangle of land to west of Citadel Hill) and the military barracks at the North Common are visible. Note the 1915 military barracks at the northeast corner of the North Common are gone by this time. The Camp Hill hospital complex is also visible on sheets 37 & 21, as are the private lands around Spring Garden and the institutions on the South Common.**

<sup>286</sup> Werle 2015.





**Figure 3.2-46: Temporary housing constructed by the Halifax Relief Commission at Bell Road and North Park Street following the Halifax Explosion.<sup>287</sup>**

Despite the large and intensive occupation by the military and displaced persons of the Halifax Explosion, this occupation was quite brief and by 1946, little trace remains on the North Common of either occupation (Figure 3.2-47). Some sort of wall or earthen line along the northwestern corner and western edge of the Common as well as a few structures on the west side are present. These may possibly be related to World War I or II military activity on the Common.

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<sup>287</sup> Halifax Relief Commission – Nova Scotia Archives, 26 January 1918.



*Figure 3.2-47: 1946 aerial photograph of Halifax showing the North Common, facing east southeast.<sup>288</sup>*

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<sup>288</sup> R.C.A.F. 1946.

Military activity was not confined solely to the north end of the Common. Barracks were built on part of the Sacred Heart Convent's grounds that were expropriated in 1944. Here, the Canadian Women Armed Corps lived for two years during WW2<sup>289</sup> and were known as the Cathedral Barracks. After the war, the barracks were used as a dormitory for nursing students at Dalhousie. In 1952, the property was acquired by the Royal Canadian Air Force to be used as accommodations for airmen, officers and provide a mess for single men. The complex was named "Anderson Square" after Air Vice Marshall R. R. Anderson (Figure 3.2-48).<sup>290</sup> The RCAF only occupied the property for a short period of time. As early as 1962 there was interest in building a hospital on the location and in 1975, the province bought the land of Anderson Square for constructing a hospital, today the Nova Scotia Rehabilitation and Arthritis Centre.<sup>291</sup>

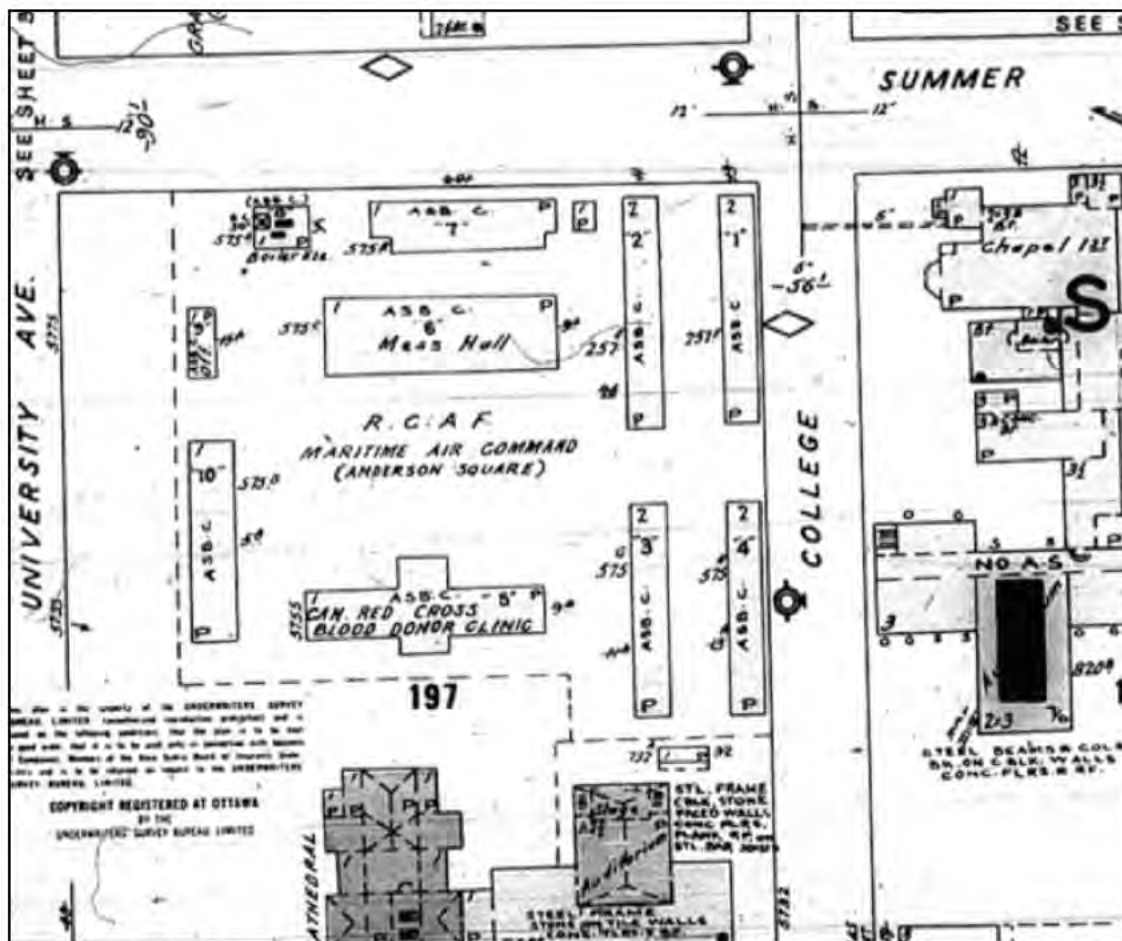


Figure 3.2-48: 1971 fire insurance plan showing the RCAF complex known as Anderson Square, north at right.<sup>292</sup>

<sup>289</sup> Baudoin 1981.

<sup>290</sup> *Halifax Mail Star* 28 March 1952, page 3, column 6-7.

<sup>291</sup> Nelson 2017 "Re Abandoned Bases: Nova Scotia"

<sup>292</sup> Goad 1971, sheet 34.

### *The Common as Recreational Space*

In addition to the military, institutional, private and pastoral land uses on the Common, it was also a site of recreation from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onward. In fact, it was probably the military use of the North Common that extended protection that other areas of Common did not enjoy and therefore, recreational use in these other areas became limited as they were consumed by private and institutional development.

In the mid-1760's the North Common became home to a horse racetrack, dreamed up and brought into being by Provincial Secretary Richard Bulkeley and Governor Lord William Campbell.<sup>293</sup> Throughout its period as an exercising ground, parades and ceremonies were held here as were social events for the people of Halifax . For example, the closing celebrations of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, on June 22<sup>nd</sup> 1897, also attracted "...about fifteen thousand people who crowded around the big square on the North Common".<sup>294</sup>

A Committee of the Common was established in 1851 and began clearing, draining and filling portions of the Common, for use as gardens, horse races and military reviews.<sup>295</sup> Upgrades to the Common were challenging as "there was virtually no soil" and fill had to be brought in to the area.<sup>296</sup> As late as 1860, swampy land and portions of the city dump were present at the north end of the Public Gardens (Figure 3.2-49). The approximate location of Freshwater Brook, already underground at this time, is also shown.

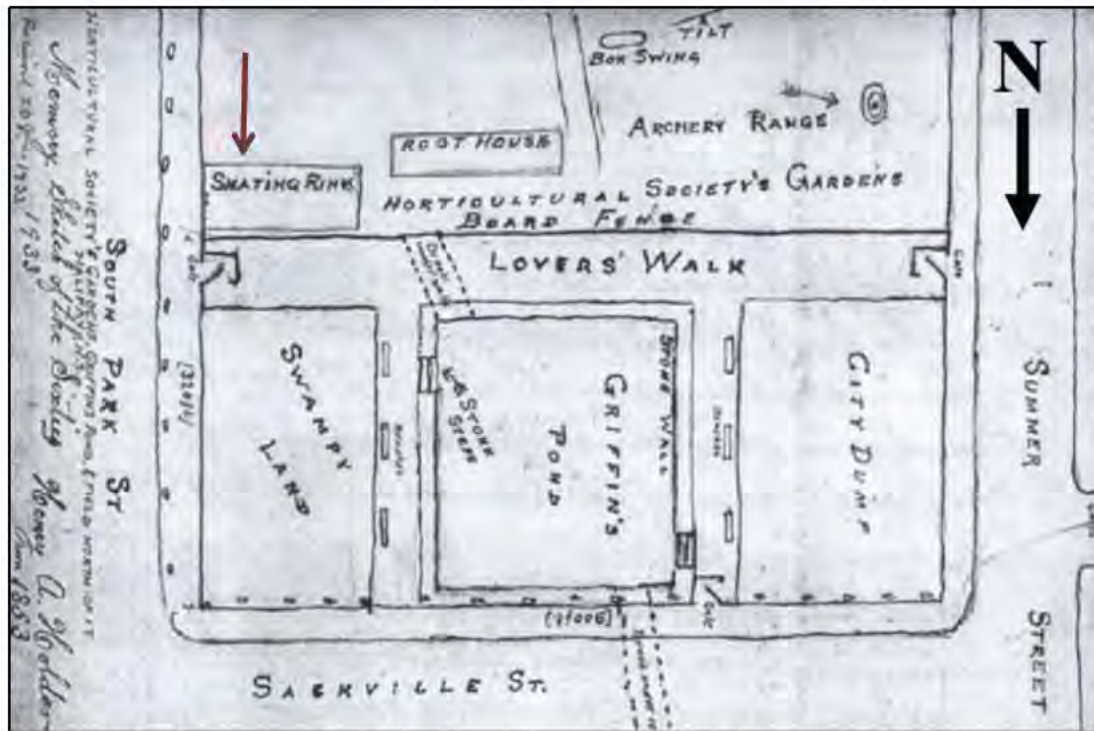
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<sup>293</sup> Raddall 1949:76-77.

<sup>294</sup> Blakely 1949:189.

<sup>295</sup> Markham 1980:24.

<sup>296</sup> Blakeley 1949:210.



**Figure 3.2-49: Henry Holder's 1933 map of the Horticultural Gardens and surrounds in 1860, including the skating rink (red).<sup>297</sup> Note Griffin's Pond, with swampy land to the east and the city dump to the west, as well as the approximate underground location of Freshwater Brook.**

In 1867, Alderman McCullough had a garden constructed for public use, to the northeast of the Horticultural Gardens, in the area east of Griffin's Pond. Prior to McCullough's garden, this area was described in the *Acadian Recorder* as:

*[...] a bit of mere waste ground, a sort of cross between a dismal swamp and a blueberry barren, beside being a receptacle for dead cats, broken bottles, old boots, worn-out brooms, defunct door-mats, and rubbish of every description, diversified with a pleasant growth of thistles and dockweed in odd corners.<sup>298</sup>*

However, this garden only lasted one year before it was planted as a hayfield the next summer. It was re-established in 1870 after public outcry. In 1874, the city council paid to level and drain the area west of Griffin's Pond, which was filled with ashes, street sweepings, and foundation remains. After this work was done, the area was opened to the public. This same year, the city's garden and the Horticultural Gardens were amalgamated, with the city paying \$15,000 for the Horticultural Gardens, resulting in the public gardens known today.

<sup>297</sup> Holder 1933.

<sup>298</sup> Friends of Public Gardens 1989:9; *Acadian Recorder* 27 June 1870.

A covered skating rink was present within the Horticultural Gardens, constructed in the early 1860s, formally opened on 3 January 1863 as reported in the *Nova Scotian*:

*The structure is permanent in its character and is tastefully fitted up, and gas is introduced so that the Rink can be lighted at night. [...] At the appointed hour His Excellency arrived, and after making a few well chosen and appropriate remarks, declared the Rink open. He remarked that the exercise of skating would prove condusive to the heath of those engaged in it, besides affording very agreeable amusement and pastime. [...] So as soon as the Rink was declared open, some fifty or sixty ladies and gentleman, being provided with skates, glided out upon the ice and enjoyed the pleasure of the 'giddy whirl' to their hearts content.*

The *Acadian Recorder* was similarly enthusiastic:

*THE SKATING RINK - This new institution, now in successful operation, is the greatest favourite of those citizens who can afford to enjoy it. We hail with pleasure the movement made in this matter, and we hope now that Halifax will not stop until every man, woman, boy, or girl, who has the muscle and the inclination, may find a frozen surface in rink or pond on which to spend many a pleasant hour of our long winters.*

This rink was initially accessible only to members of the Horticultural Society and it was demolished in 1889.<sup>299</sup>

A more publically accessible rink, the Exhibition Building Rink, was opened in 1879 within the Exhibition Building. This was the first permanent exhibition building in Halifax and was an impressive, large building, with a central tower over the front entrance and an additional tower at each end of the building (Figure 3.2-50). On the main floor, a large room was used for exhibition displays, agricultural exhibits, craft shows, carnivals, concerts and events in the fall, summer and spring (Figure 3.2-51). In the winter, the space was used as a public skating rink, where ice dancing, carnivals and masquerades were held (Figure 3.2-52). The skating rink was formally opened in January 1880 with a large ball.<sup>300</sup>

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<sup>299</sup> Black Spruce Heritage 2005; Stevens 17 January 2016 URL

<sup>300</sup> Friends of Halifax Common 2013:7; Stevens 18 January 2016 URL



**Figure 3.2-50: The exterior of the Exhibition Building on Tower Road.<sup>301</sup>**



**Figure 3.2-51: The interior of the Exhibition Building show the rink during rest of the year.<sup>302</sup>**

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<sup>301</sup> Notman 1900.



**Figure 3.2-52: A costumed ice carnival in February 1899 within the Exhibition Building rink.<sup>303</sup>**

The Exhibition Building on Tower Road was relatively short-lived. New exhibition buildings were constructed on the corner of Robie and Windsor Streets and the city council decided to sell the existing Exhibition Building in 1896, although it wasn't until 1906 that the property was sold to the St. Luke's congregation for the construction of the All Saints Cathedral.<sup>304</sup>

On the Central Common, George Low constructed a building on Bell Road in 1908. The building was originally intended to accommodate the Halifax City Works Shops. A wagon shed, blacksmith shop, paint shop, plumbing office, sewer department and stables for mounted police also occupied the property. In 1936, the main building became home to the Halifax Junior Bengal Lancers under the directorship of M. B. Dick Zwicker. Although the Bengal Lancers stable was badly damaged in a fire in 1949, the concrete exterior was spared and the interior stables were rebuilt. The property was modified in the 1970s and is now a municipally-registered heritage property.<sup>305</sup> Prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century City Works occupation of the property, however, late 19<sup>th</sup> century maps and depictions of

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<sup>302</sup> Notman n.d.

<sup>303</sup> Notman 1899.

<sup>304</sup> Stevens 18 January 2016 URL

<sup>305</sup> Parks Canada url.



the city indicate that there was a long building that may have been a stable at the corner of Bell Road and what was then the east end of Jubilee Road (since closed off) since at least 1878 (Figure 3.2-53).



**Figure 3.2-53: A portion of Hopkins' 1878 Fire Insurance plan for the city showing a stable or other outbuilding at the corner of Bell Road and the former east end of Jubilee Road (bounded in red), north at top. This site is now home to the Halifax Junior Bengal Lancers.<sup>306</sup>**

Another area of parkland within the original Common is Victoria Park. The earliest reference to Victoria Park, located along South Park Street between College Street and Spring Garden Road, is in city minutes dating to 1898, when a request to erect a bandstand on the lot was denied.<sup>307</sup> Various statues and fountains are present within this small park, dating to the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. These include a Robbie Burns statue, Stir Walter Scott Statue and William Alexander Monument. The 1966 Lind Oland fountain was gifted to the city by S.C. Oland in memory of his wife.<sup>308</sup>

<sup>306</sup> Hopkins 1878.

<sup>307</sup> Friends of Halifax Common 2013:8.

<sup>308</sup> Friends of Halifax Common 2013:8.

Aside from this late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century use of the lot as parkland, little other documented activity could be identified at Victoria Park. The Hopkins map indicates that Freshwater Brook was still visible through this area in 1878 and may suggest that it was relatively wet prior to the enclosing and undergrounding of the brook, potentially hindering earlier activity on the property.

The Wanderers Grounds, separated from the Public Gardens by Sackville Street, remained undeveloped throughout the nineteenth century and much of the twentieth century with the exception of a few buildings near the corner of Sackville and Bell Road (Figure 3.2-54). Corridors of trees appear to form the boundaries of a rough sports field at this time. The nearby buildings may have been used in relation to the various sporting events that went on at the grounds or more likely in relation to storage for the Public Gardens, but the space also included the residence of the Superintendent of the public gardens at the very corner. The older residence, presumed to be at the same location, was later condemned and the new building (still standing today) was constructed in 1902-1903 at 1606 Bell Rd. The first superintendent to occupy this house was Richard Power, who had been superintendent of the Gardens since 1872. Power is credited for the layout and design of the Public Gardens, transforming the space into an important city landmark and destination for Halifax citizens and visitors. Until recently, the building served as office space for Garden staff.<sup>309</sup> It has recently undergone major conservation and is now used for Parks & Recreation Youth Services Offices.<sup>310</sup>



**Figure 3.2-54: 1879 panoramic view of Halifax showing the approximate boundary of the Wanderers Grounds, north to right.<sup>311</sup> Note the buildings just outside the boundaries to the east, likely related to the Public Gardens.**

<sup>309</sup> HRM Community Development Department, n.d.

<sup>310</sup> Koziak Roberts, pers. comm.

<sup>311</sup> Ruger, 1879.

The Wanderers Grounds were leased to W.A.A.C. (The Halifax Wanderers Amateur Athletic Club) in the late nineteenth century. A Nova Scotia Statute in 1886 stated that the city of Halifax was authorized to let part of the common bounded easterly by Bell Rd, south by Sackville Street, westerly and northerly by Summer Street and Bell Road to the W.A.A.C.<sup>311</sup> It became the home grounds for various sporting events such as rugby and lawn bowling.<sup>312</sup> A photo showing a large crowd of spectators watching a performance on the grounds displays how popular the area must have been to Halifax residents (Figure 3.2-55).



**Figure 3.2-55: Spectators watch a performance by the Royal Canadian Rifles Band at the Wanderers Grounds.<sup>313</sup> Date unknown, but probably c.1900-1910, most likely looking southwest from the bowling green, which is still extant today.**

A field house and Canteen were built on the grounds after they were given over to the Wanderers Club. The field house, built by the W.A.A.C. in 1896, was destroyed by fire. It was replaced by the Navy League Dry Canteen.

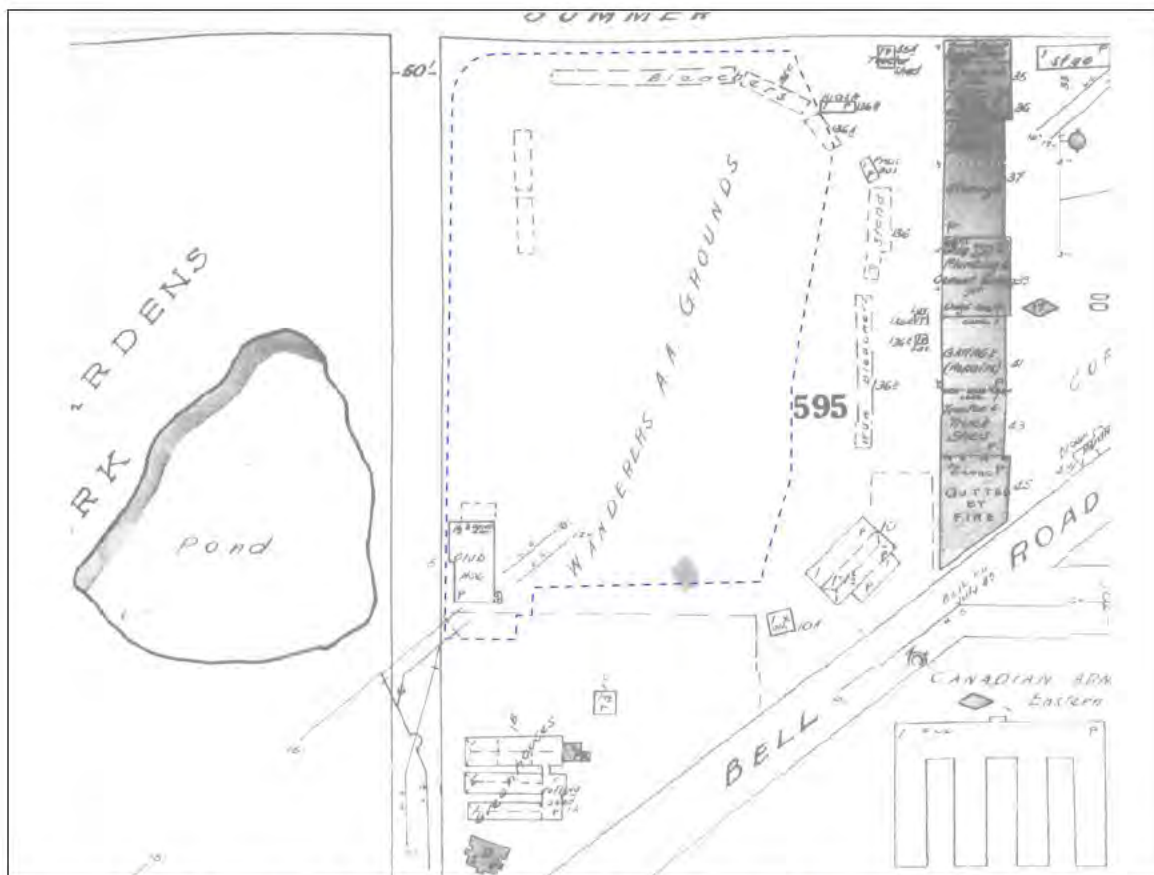
<sup>311</sup> Nova Scotia Archives. 1886

<sup>312</sup> Halifax Mail-Star 1955.

<sup>313</sup> Notman Studio Nova Scotia Archives accession no. 1983-310 number 12276

The club ran into financial difficulties in the 1920s when they failed to pay their lease fees. The club was eventually asked to surrender their lease to allow council to make a modern sports arena of it. With limited resources the grounds were returned to the city of Halifax who have maintained it today as the Wanderers Grounds.<sup>314</sup>

By 1951, the Wanderers Grounds was very much a sports field as we would conceive today. Wooden bleachers stood on three sides, a clubhouse stood on Sackville Street opposite Griffin's Pond, and a press box, kiosk, and tractor shed also supported the sporting events at the field (Figure 3.2-56). When overlaying this image with a modern map, however, it becomes clear that the modern Wanderers Grounds has experienced significant encroachment from the north, and many of these facilities are now actually outside of the 2017 field boundaries.



**Figure 3.2-56: The 1951 fire insurance plan for the city shows wooden bleachers and the clubhouse within the modern boundary of the grounds (blue), though other bleachers, the press box, and a tractor shed that were once part of the grounds are now part of the Museum of Natural History and Bengal Lancers' grounds.<sup>315</sup> North is to the right.**

<sup>314</sup> Halifax Mail-Star 1955.

<sup>315</sup> Goad 1951, sheet 21.

Sometime prior to June 13<sup>th</sup>, 1879, a gardener's lodge, a conservatory, and a stone-breaking shed was built on the Common, presumably within 600 yards of the Citadel, as the only record available during research for this project was a series of June 1879 letters between the city and the military requesting permission to allow the structures to remain. The request in this case was granted.<sup>316</sup>

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1897, the Mayor of Halifax received word that the gospel tent that had been erected on the Common, which had "been in full operation for some time," should be removed if it had not been put up with appropriate permission from the city's resident military authorities.<sup>317</sup> The Mayor's response references Section 686 of the City Charter of the time, declaring that "No person shall put up any building, fence or other erection within 1800 feet from the salient angles of the Fortress [sic] of Citadel Hill without the permission of the Commander in Chief of Her Majesty's Forces in this Province." The Mayor interpreted this to refer to permanent structures, but not temporary ones such as a tent.<sup>318</sup>

The next week, Harris, Henry & Cahan (Solicitors and Notaries) also wrote to the Mayor protesting on behalf of the Principal Secretary of State the tent erected on the common was an infringement upon the rights of military authorities. It noted that without having the consent of the Commander in Chief before the erection of any obstruction, "such steps as he may be advised to adopt will be taken for its removal."<sup>319</sup> It is not clear how the issue was finally resolved, but the exchange draws attention to the military's very active use of the Common for the exercise and encampment of troops, which was the main cause of contention for the tent's presence. References in these letters to the presence of Circus tents from time to time on the Common with permission from the military is also of note, and the layout of the Biller Brothers Circus including local concessions is shown on a 1951 map (Figure 3.2-57).

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<sup>316</sup> Commanding Royal Engineer's Office 1879.

<sup>317</sup> Chief Staff Officer 1897.

<sup>318</sup> Stephen 1897a.

<sup>319</sup> Harris Henry & Cahan 1897.



**Figure 3.2-57: A map showing the location of the Biller Bros. Circus on the North Common.<sup>320</sup> North is to the bottom.**

Recreational space and improvements were also found in and around the Egg Pond, which remained a popular location for boating or “punting” even after the First World War. The pond is shown on many maps of the Common, and was improved with three “generations” of stone retaining wall (pre-1897, c.1898, and c.1931 (Figure 3.2-58 and Figure 3.2-58) as well as a combination boathouse and canteen (Figure 3.2-60). MacAskill photographs dated to c.1923 (Figure 3.2-61 and Figure 3.2-62) show the 1898 retaining wall as well as a structure at the northwest point of the pond, rather than on the pond’s north side as the smaller 1956 canteen and boathouse is later shown.

<sup>320</sup> City Engineer’s Office 1951.

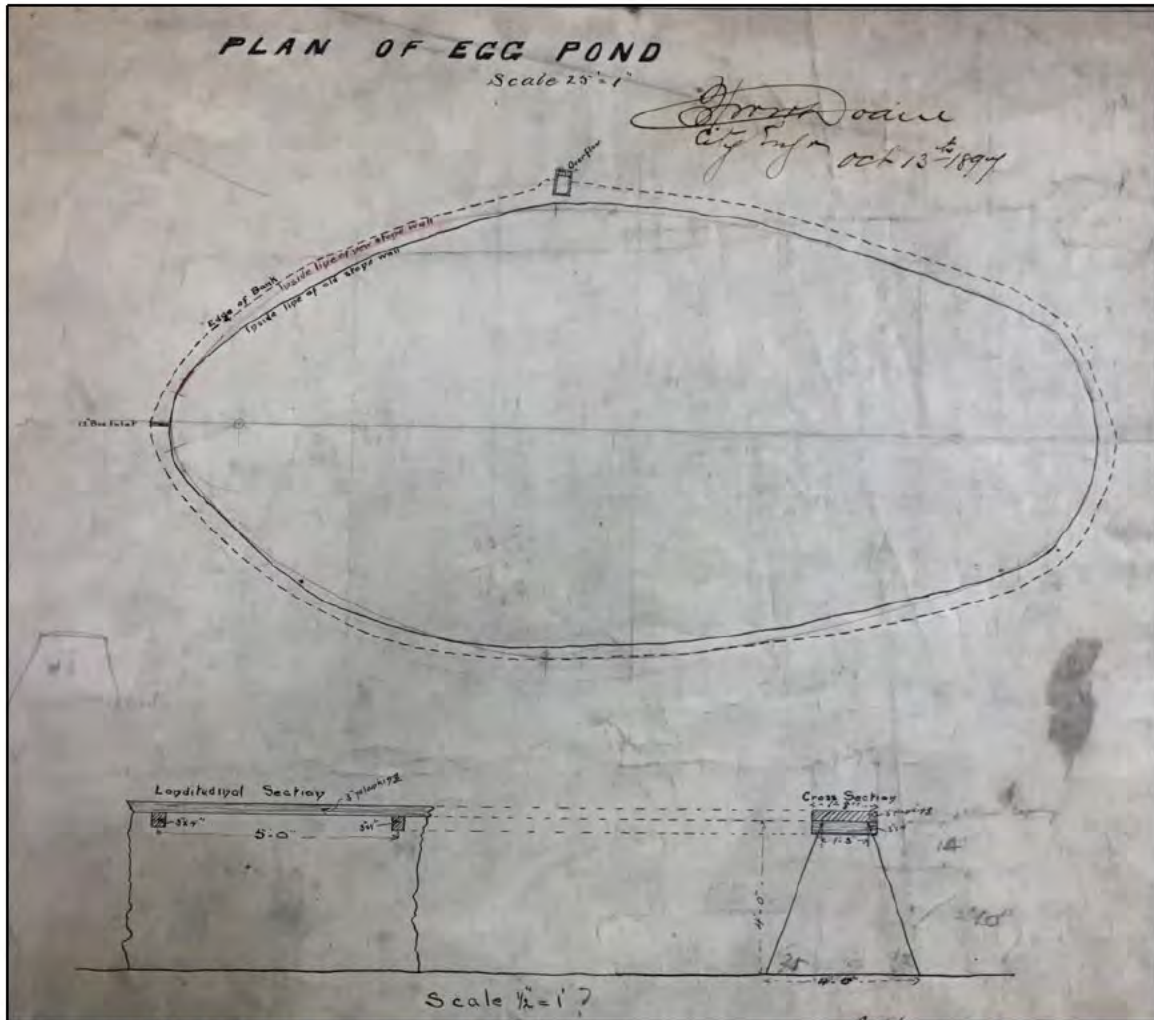


Figure 3.2-58: A plan of a proposed masonry wall around Egg Pond, 1897.<sup>321</sup> The plan shows an existing stone wall's inside line (solid) and proposed inside edge of a new wall (dotted line), along with a 12" box inlet on the north end and an overflow box on the east side.

<sup>321</sup> City Engineer's Office 1897b.

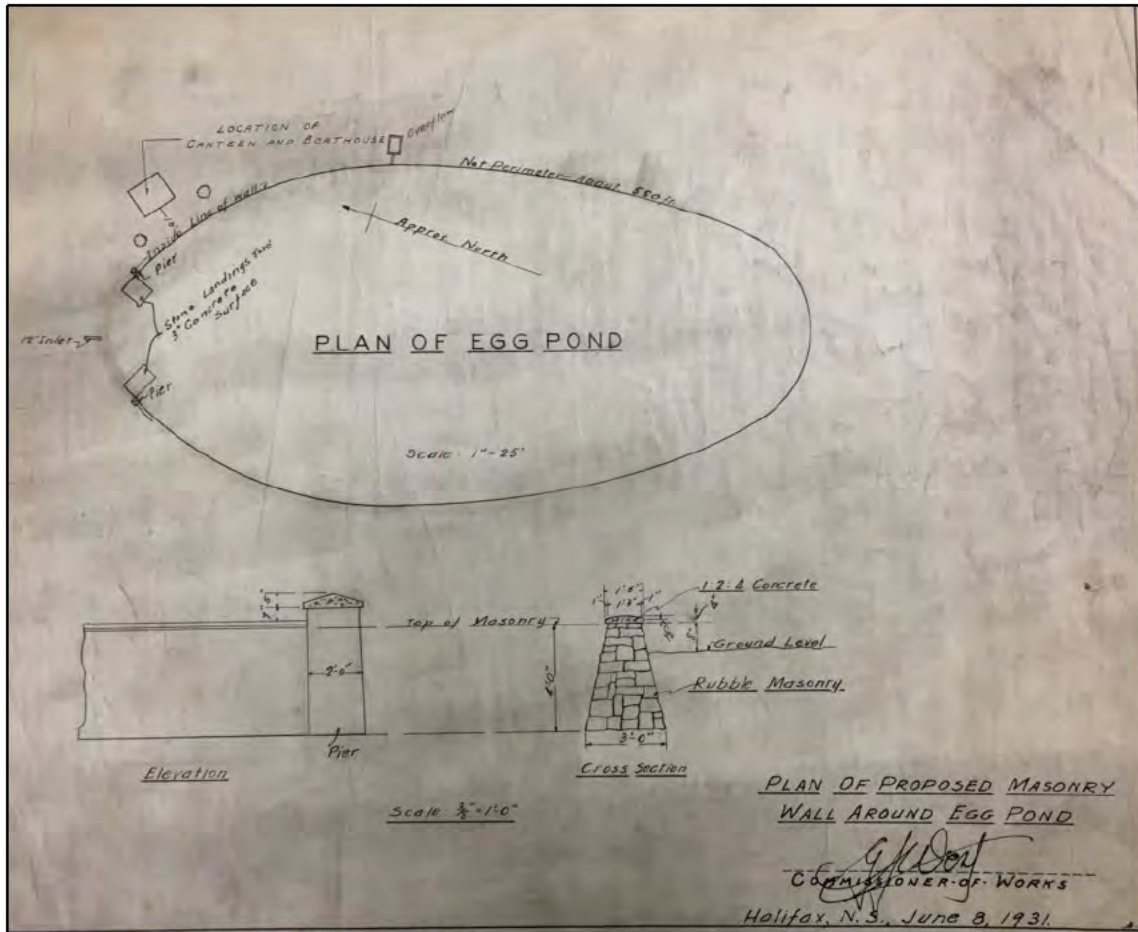


Figure 3.2-59: A plan of a proposed masonry wall around Egg Pond, 1931.<sup>322</sup> The location of the boathouse and canteen appears to have been a later addition.

<sup>322</sup> City Engineer's Office 1931.



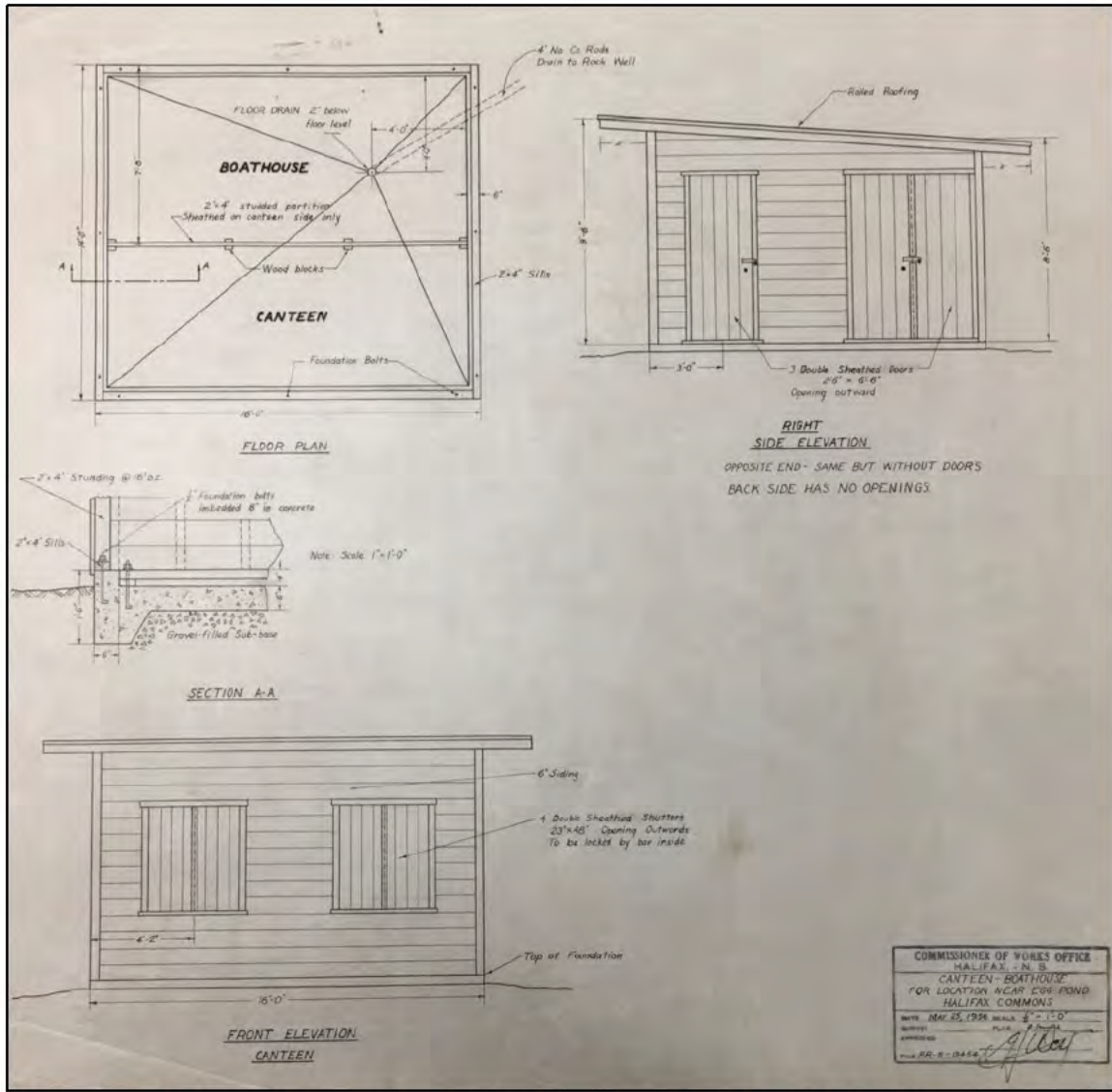


Figure 3.2-60: Plan of a boathouse and canteen near Egg Pond, 1956.<sup>323</sup>

<sup>323</sup> Commissioner of Works Office 1956.



**Figure 3.2-61: “Punting on the Egg Pond,”** showing the pond with a stone retaining wall and an opening, presumably at the north end, looking towards an unidentified building.<sup>324</sup> The later combination boat house and canteen would be built just out of frame to the right.



**Figure 3.2-62: Another photograph of the Egg Pond** dated to roughly 1923. Note the stone retaining wall with a north-facing opening directed towards an unidentified building.<sup>325</sup>

<sup>324</sup> MacAskill c.1923a.

<sup>325</sup> MacAskill c.1923b.

The central common was also a popular children’s play place, as shown in a 1918 photograph that reveals both Egg Pond with punts in the distance, and at least five well-used swing sets (Figure 3.2-63)



**Figure 3.2-63: A 1918 photograph of the Central Common showing swing sets as well as punts on Egg Pond (surrounded by trees, upper left).<sup>326</sup>**

By the 1960s, the North Common was also home to swimming and wading pools with an associated building, presumably for washrooms and changing (Figure 3.2-64). Two undated photographs, tentatively attributed to the 1950s, show that the pool and sets of swings nearby saw frequent use by local children (Figure 3.2-65 and Figure 3.2-66). Other landscaping on the North Common resulted in extensive though shallow disturbance to the soil (Figure 3.2-67 and Figure 3.2-68), resulting in the Common looking much as it does today.

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<sup>326</sup> Gauvin & Gentzel 1918.



**Figure 3.2-64: A 1965 plan of the Central Common shows Egg Pond, two pools and associated structures, and a proposed soccer field, north at top.<sup>327</sup>**

<sup>327</sup> City of Halifax, Works Department 1965.



**Figure 3.2-65: Children using the wading pool on the North Common in the mid-twentieth century.<sup>328</sup>**



**Figure 3.2-66: Children enjoy the wading pool and swings on the North Common, looking southeast toward the Citadel.<sup>329</sup>**

<sup>328</sup> Halifax Municipal Archives c.1950-1960.



**Figure 3.2-67: Extensive ground disturbance on the North Common, showing the Armouries in the distance on the right, looking north.<sup>330</sup>**



**Figure 3.2-68: Another photograph showing soil disturbance on the North Common, looking east toward the Armouries.<sup>331</sup>**

<sup>329</sup> Halifax Municipal Archives c.1950-1960.

<sup>330</sup> Halifax Works Department c.1965.

## 4.0 Resource Inventory and Evaluation of Resource Potential

For the purposes of the archaeological inventory and assessment, the study area is divided into sections based on their geographical extent:

- The North Common – The North Common is defined by Cunard Street on the north, Robie Street on the west, North Park Street on the east and the Central Common on the south.
- The Central Common – a triangle bounded by Cogswell Street, Bell Road and Trollope Street.
- The South Common – from Bell Road/Trollope Street to South Street. This includes the institutional lands of Citadel High School, the Halifax Infirmary and the Museum of Natural History as well as the open green spaces of the Wanderers Grounds, Camp Hill Cemetery and the Halifax Public Gardens. On the south side of Spring Garden Road, it includes Victoria Park, Dalhousie University Carleton Campus, the Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre, the IWK Health Centre and the Victoria General site. It does not include the privately-owned lands on the south side of Camp Hill Cemetery, Spring Garden Road and Summer Street or on the north side of College Street and intersected by Carlton Street.

Within these areas, several previous archaeological assessments have been conducted that have led to the discovery of numerous archaeological sites that reveal past land use and occupation on the Halifax Common.

Known archaeology resources and potential archaeological resources have been compiled in Tables 4.0-1 to 4.0-3 for the North Common, Central Common and South Common areas. Descriptions of previous impact and the degree of previous impact have also been provided. Degrees of impact were assigned as low, moderate, severe or variable. A variable degree of impact indicates that some areas have been severely impacted, while other areas have experienced little to no impact. For example, utility trenches create severe impact within a small and defined area and therefore, impact to large archaeological deposits would be variable.

Additionally, the potential for encountering archaeological resources during future ground disturbance has also been evaluated, based on the desktop study, previous archaeological assessments and current development/land use. In general, the potential for encountering most archaeological resources has been evaluated to be moderate, given that most of the study area has experienced 19th and 20th century impact to some degree. In areas where large 20th century developments are present, it is presumed that any archaeological deposits that once existed have since been completely destroyed and therefore the potential for encountering archaeological deposits is low, although there may be some moderate potential at the edges of these

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<sup>331</sup> Halifax Works Department c.1965.

properties under sidewalks or in less developed areas. Additionally, some historic cultural activity would leave little to no trace in the archaeological record and these resources have also been evaluated to be of low potential within the study area. Finally, in a few areas, the results of the desktop study and previous assessments indicate the potential to encounter archaeological resources is high, such as undeveloped parking lots and areas of the Public Gardens.

#### **4.0.1 The North Common**

Archaeological assessments on the North Common have been limited to developments and upgrades of the street network as well as construction of the Halifax Skating Oval and associated pavilion. There have been other developments and upgrades within the North Common including the installation of the central fountain in the 1960s (which was a large undertaking in terms of movement of earth), as well as tree planting and removal, construction of the baseball fields, and general landscaping.

Archaeological monitoring of construction of the roundabout at North Park, Cunard and Agricola Streets in 2014 unearthed several archaeological deposits related to 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century occupation and land use in the area. In the North Common itself, trail and lighting upgrades along the northern and eastern periphery revealed vestiges of past cultural activity, most of which was disturbed by late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> lighting and landscaping as well as by burying of electrical cables for various public functions over the past three decades (outdoor concerts and the 1984 papal visit). As part of the same development project, trees were transplanted on the North Common along the footpath immediately west of the Emera Oval. This led to the discovery of localized deposits related to the 19<sup>th</sup> century use of the Common as a public dumping ground. The monitoring and assessment led to the determination that the potential for archaeological deposits related to the 19<sup>th</sup> century use of the North Common as a public dump still remains. Though little of the 1915 /1916 occupation of the northeast corner of the Common by the 85<sup>th</sup> Highland Battalion was encountered, historic photographs do indicate that the regiment had short-term accommodations in this area and the potential for deposits related to military occupation on the North Common remains.

Though located outside the study area, it is worth noting that 2009 and 2010 monitoring around the periphery of the Halifax Armoury by Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Group revealed 19<sup>th</sup> century deposits related to domestic occupation of the property prior to the 1894 commencement of construction of the Armoury. In 2011, monitoring of trenching around the full periphery of the Halifax Armoury by CRM Group resulted in the discovery of four rifled muzzle-loading cannons lying end to end on the north side of the Armoury building. The cannons weighed up to 15 tons each and were installed in Canadian fortifications as early as the 1860s. By the 1880s, 38 similar guns were installed around the fortifications that defended Halifax Harbour. The guns were



removed from their buried context for eventual display. It is likely that the guns were deposited in the open excavation during construction of the Armoury.<sup>332</sup>

In 2010, CRM Group also conducted monitoring for the construction of the drainage system for the Canada Winter Games Halifax Speed Skating Oval (now the Emera Oval). The area was found to be capped by clay immediately beneath the topsoil, the former overlying a dark brown to black silty-sandy fill deposit which was considered to be contaminated, thus the need for the clay cap. The fill deposit beneath the clay contained occasional artifacts but nowhere did excavation extend beyond the level of late 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century fill.<sup>333</sup>

CRM Group also conducted monitoring of the Emera Oval pavilion buildings in the summer of 2015. The study area extended from the southwest side of the skating oval south to Cogswell Street. Monitoring revealed evidence of previous disturbance related to buried civil infrastructure (water and storm sewer). It also revealed a layer of fill that was deposited in 2011 for landscaping of the oval. The fill was approximately 1.5 meters thick near the oval and thinned out to approximately 0.80 meters in the west end of the study area. In 2015, the site was excavated to approximately 1.2 meters below the surface, so that the depth of excavation did not extend below the level of modern fill near the oval. The stratigraphy was shown to be similar that observed during the 2010 excavation in that modern fill overlay a clay cap which, in turn, overlay a stratum of 20<sup>th</sup> century contaminated fill. Below the 20<sup>th</sup> century material was a layer of mid-19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century domestic refuse ranging from 1.5 meters to 2.2 meters in thickness. Below this stratum was a layer of ironstone “cobbles” and boulders at the level of the water table which was interpreted as a 19<sup>th</sup> century infilling episode to address the wet, swampy conditions in this part of the Common.<sup>334</sup>

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<sup>332</sup> Cultural Resource Management Group 2009; 2010 and 2011a.

<sup>333</sup> Cultural Resource Management Group 2011b.

<sup>334</sup> Cultural Resource Management Group 2015.

Table 4.0-1: Table of known and potential archaeological resources in the North Common.

NORTH COMMON - KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES									
Location within North Common	Description	Potential Archaeological Resource	Known Archaeological Resource	Location of Known Archaeological Resource	Previously Impacted	Description of Impact	Degree of Impact	Previous Archaeological Assessment	Potential of Encountering Resource During Future Ground Disturbance
Entire area	19th century infilling		⊙	Entire area	⊙	Transplanted trees during 2014 roundabout construction; 19th & 20th century trails and landscaping; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable	North Park Street Roundabout, Phase I (A2014NS070), Canada Winter Games Speed Skating Oval (A2010NS096), Emera Oval Pavilion Buildings Archaeological Monitoring (A2015NS031)	High - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits below modern fill & clay cap (0.8 to 1.5 meters in depth)
Entire area	1915-1928 military activity	⊙			⊙	19th & 20th century trails and landscaping; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable		Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Entire area	18th, 19th & 20th century military activity	⊙			⊙	19th & 20th century trails and landscaping; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable		Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Entire area	18th, 19th & 20th century infilling	⊙			⊙	19th & 20th century trails and landscaping; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable		High - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Entire area & Freshwater Brook vicinity	Precontact & Historic First Nations activity	⊙			⊙	18th to 20th century infilling, 19th & 20th century trails and landscaping; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Severe		Low - 18th to 20th century impact & severe change to Freshwater Brook
North end	20th century Halifax Explosion temporary housing (tents)	⊙			⊙	19th & 20th century trails and landscaping; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable		Low to Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits possible but original archaeological deposit likely insubstantial
Entire area	18th, 19th & 20th century recreation activities	⊙			⊙	19th & 20th century infilling, 19th & 20th century trails and landscaping; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable		Low to Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits possible but original archaeological deposits likely insubstantial

#### 4.0.2 Central Common

The Central Common has not been the subject of a previous archaeological assessment. The only assessment in the near vicinity was that which was conducted for the southern roundabout at North Park, Cogswell, Trollope Streets and Ahern Avenue and Rainnie Drive in 2015. However, the development did not extend into the Central Common itself, with the exception of some new utility poles, street lights and tree removal around the periphery. Archaeological monitoring, particularly in the intersection where the roundabout now lies, revealed evidence of 18<sup>th</sup> century military occupation that spilled over from the nearby Citadel and vestiges of 18<sup>th</sup> century domestic land use were also discovered on the west side of the intersection just beyond the northeast corner of the Central Common. A network of mid- to late-19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century civil infrastructure (sewers, drains, and buried electrical lines) was unearthed in the intersection, some of which likely remains intact to the west and east of the roundabout, and potentially extending into the Central Common.

Today, the west half of the Central Common is occupied by the outdoor swimming pool and wading pools, the associated Pavilion, playground, skate park, and basketball court (Figure 4.0-1). Sanitary and storm sewer lines as well as a water line run across the west half of the Central Common from Bell Road. A combined storm and sanitary sewer line runs across this area from Cogswell Street. The aquatic facilities and Pavilion as well as the skate park and the civil infrastructure (sewer, storm, water) have, undoubtedly, had a significant impact on the former Freshwater Brook, Egg Pond and any potential archaeological resources that may have existed here. However, the potential may still exist for pockets of both intact and disturbed archaeological deposits surrounding these modern features. Intact archaeological resources may still remain beneath the grassed areas as well as beneath the playground, basketball court, and asphalt walkways.

The east half of the Central Common is occupied by a baseball field, grass sports field and concrete tennis courts. Intact and/or disturbed archaeological deposits may still lie beneath these features as well as under the grassed areas and asphalt walkways. The water and storm water lines that run through this area may have impacted on potential archaeological resources.



**Table 4.0-2: Table of known and potential archaeological resources in the Central Common.**

CENTRAL COMMON - KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES									
Location within Central Common	Description	Potential Archaeological Resource	Known Archaeological Resource	Location of Known Archaeological Resource	Previously Impacted	Description of Impact	Degree of Impact	Previous Archaeological Assessment	Potential of Encountering Resource During Future Ground Disturbance
Northeast corner	18th century military occupation		⊙	Intersection of roundabout at North Park/Cogswell/Trollope/Ahern	⊙	Construction of roundabout in 2015; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Severe	North Park Street Roundabout, Phase II (A2015NS014)	Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Northeast corner	18th century domestic occupation		⊙	Intersection of roundabout at North Park/Cogswell/Trollope/Ahern	⊙	Construction of roundabout in 2015; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Severe	North Park Street Roundabout, Phase II (A2015NS014)	Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
North end	19th century & early 20th century civil infrastructure		⊙	Intersection of roundabout at North Park/Cogswell/Trollope/Ahern	⊙	Construction of roundabout in 2015; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Severe	North Park Street Roundabout, Phase II (A2015NS014)	Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Entire area	18th & 19th century military activity	⊙			⊙	Construction of existing recreational infrastructure; 20th century utilities & civil infrastructure	Variable		Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Entire area	18th, 19th & 20th century infilling	⊙			⊙	Construction of existing recreational infrastructure; 20th century utilities & civil infrastructure	Variable		Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Entire area	19th & 20th century recreation activity	⊙			⊙	Construction of existing recreational infrastructure; 20th century utilities & civil infrastructure	Variable		Low to Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits possible but original archaeological deposits likely insubstantial
Entire area, Freshwater Brook & Egg Pond vicinity	Precontact & historic First Nations activity	⊙			⊙	18th, 19th & 20th century infilling, construction of existing recreational infrastructure; 20th century utilities & civil infrastructure	Severe		Low - 18th to 20th century impact & severe change to Freshwater Brook & Egg Pond
Egg Pond	18th, 19th & 20th century activity around Egg Pond	⊙			⊙	18th, 19th & 20th century infilling, construction of existing recreational infrastructure	Severe		Low to Moderate - 20th century impact & severe change to Egg Pond

### 4.0.3 South Common

Although the north end of the South Common was formerly occupied by the Queen Elizabeth High School from 1942 to 2007, construction of the school came at a time before the Special Places Protection Act (1980) and, therefore, the construction was not preceded by an archaeological assessment. Although developments in the city prior to the Special Places Protection Act often lead to the discovery of archaeological deposits that were reported to the Nova Scotia Museum, we did not find any reference to such discoveries during this assessment. Today, the former QE High School Site is occupied by the Common Roots Urban Farm which sits on 2 acres of land that is hospital-owned.

There have been numerous archaeological assessments within the South Common, though few have been focused on the institutional lands south of Spring Garden Road. The 2015 roundabout development at North Park, Cogswell, Trollope Streets and Ahern Avenue and Rainnie Drive involved some excavation at the north end of the Citadel High School property. This area was previously characterized by a mound of modern fill that created a wedge on the south side of the intersection of Trollope Street and Ahern Avenue. Beneath the modern fill was a very deep deposit of contaminated soil that contained deposits related to the post-1917 Halifax Explosion tenements that occupied the current Citadel High School site. The deposit is believed to be secondary, having been bulldozed from the area to the south, likely when the high school was built. No intact structural remains of the tenement community were encountered, though structural elements including wire nails, cut wood and tar paper were uncovered. It was determined that the tenements were likely largely disturbed by construction of the former Nova Scotia Community College Bell Road Campus, Citadel High School and the basketball courts in the north end of the school property. Vestiges of the tenement community spilled over under the north ends of Trollope Street and Ahern Avenue as well. Following excavation of this area, the area behind the new curb immediately north of the fence for the basketball court was infilled with material that had been excavated from a late 18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century midden related to military occupation that spilled over from the Citadel (discussed in the “Central Common” section). This activity thereby created a secondary or tertiary deposit behind the curb.

In 2006 and 2007, Davis Archaeological Consultants (now Davis MacIntyre & Associates) monitored excavation for the installation of a steam line to run from the Citadel High School across the north end of the Nova Scotia Museum property to the Halifax Infirmary. Again, archaeologists observed 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century artifacts related to the use of the Common as a city dumping ground. Remnants of two 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings were also discovered which may have been related to the former City Works buildings. A circular mortared stone culvert was also discovered in situ north of the asphalt

parking lot on the north side of the Museum and may have been related to the 19<sup>th</sup> century diversion of Freshwater Brook into culverts.<sup>335</sup>

The visitor parking lot on the south side of the Nova Scotia Museum was expanded southward in 2002 and Museum staff archaeologist Stephen Powell monitored excavation. Excavation ranged from 0.70 meter to 1.5 meters below the former grade. Powell noted previous disturbance for much of the length of the study area, related to previous installation of a concrete duct bank. Early 20<sup>th</sup> century domestic artifacts were noted in the disturbed context and were interpreted to be related to public dumping on the Common, again. Excavation did not extended beyond the level of disturbance.<sup>336</sup>

Davis Archaeological Consultants Limited monitored excavations for a new riding paddock on the Bengal Lancers property in 2006. A heavily-disturbed deposit of late 19<sup>th</sup> century refuse was encountered throughout the study area, though the excavation of a test pit to the north of the paddock did reveal the primary refuse deposit at 0.66 meters below grade. A late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century concrete foundation was also encountered on the west side of the paddock which extended southwestward toward the Nova Scotia Museum parking lot. This was likely related to the former City Works buildings that occupied the site in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>337</sup>

Archaeological monitoring at Wanderers Grounds was conducted by CRM Group In 2014, as well as by Davis MacIntyre & Associates in 2017. The 2014 work involved mechanical excavation of trenches and pits for the installation of electrical conduit and light standards. Excavation revealed a modern fill layer overlying the historic late 19<sup>th</sup> century fill layer containing domestic refuse that was seen throughout numerous other areas of the Common. Sterile subsoil was reached in the pits excavated for the light standards, though the average depth of the subsoil was not noted.<sup>338</sup>

In 2017, Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited monitored upgrades to Wanderer's Grounds which included drainage and lighting upgrades, as well as installation of a new score board and new field goalposts. Monitoring identified a layer of artifact-rich dumped fill material, in some cases approximately 120cm thick, underlying approximately 40cm of cleaner modern fill forming the sports field. The large collection of artifacts collected from the site constitutes a range of specimens and origins likely from across the city, including everything from standard ceramic dishes, to architectural elements, to pharmaceutical bottles from local druggists, to organic materials such as coconuts, along with a very large selection of alcohol bottles. The artifacts represented a potentially broad date range but notably, no artifact was identified as positively being created and deposited after 1886, when the Wanderers Grounds opened as an athletic

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<sup>335</sup> Davis Archaeological Consultants Limited 2007.

<sup>336</sup> Powell 2003.

<sup>337</sup> Davis Archaeological Consultants Limited 2006.

<sup>338</sup> Cultural Resource Management Group 2014.

space. It seems likely, therefore, that this massive layer of fill was systematically dumped on the grounds in the few years prior to 1886 to create a higher and drier space for sports. The only structural feature identified during the monitoring was a slate-capped stone box drain running roughly north-south, likely relating to efforts to enclose and cover Freshwater Brook in the 1870s or 1880s.<sup>339</sup>

The Halifax Public Gardens have been the subject of numerous archaeological assessments since at least 2004. In that year, Northeast Archaeological Research conducted archaeological salvage operations to document and collect archaeological artifacts which were exposed by Hurricane Juan in September of the previous year. The project did not involve any excavation; rather artifacts were collected from 33 tree throws in the park. Artifact distribution suggested early 19<sup>th</sup> century activity in the southern half of the gardens with mid- to late-19<sup>th</sup> century activity in the northern half. In the east end of the northern part of the park, an unusually high concentration of late 18<sup>th</sup> to early-19<sup>th</sup> century ceramics suggesting an earlier period of land use in this very localized section of the park. High artifact densities in the west end of the northern part of the park dating to the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century are consistent with prolonged use of this area as a public dumping ground. Concentrations of building materials (window glass and brick) are suggestive of the presence of buried buildings or their remnants.<sup>340</sup>

As a follow-up to the destruction wrought by Hurricane Juan, HRM began a program of restoration in the Gardens in the spring of 2004. Black Spruce Heritage Services conducted monitoring of the restoration activities which included partial dredging of Griffin's Pond, installation of a water recirculation system, new stone banks, and reconfiguration and landscaping of the banks of the pond on the east and west sides. The monitoring identified four features, including a potential structure south of the west end of Griffin's Pond. Midden deposits and artifacts associated with a 19<sup>th</sup> century seed house were also identified. Another identified feature was the city dump, located north and west of Griffin's Pond from which a substantial amount of artifacts were recovered. Some artifacts were handled under special protocols due to the contaminations with duck feces. Artifacts were decontaminated in the Parks Canada Conservation Lab, with some artifacts being reburied. The recovered artifacts generally dated from 1820 to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, with some early 20<sup>th</sup> century material.<sup>341</sup>

The 2004 work around Griffin's Pond including the installation of a pumping station with a water return line running west of the Lower to Upper ponds and across Griffin's Pond. Several trenches for drainage were excavated along the east and west sides and a long trench was excavated along the north end of the gardens, to the north of Griffin's Pond. This northern trench contained a high density of artifacts and in some places a black, wet, organically enriched lens was observed, probably created by historic change to the

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<sup>339</sup> Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited 2017a.

<sup>340</sup> Northeast Archaeological Research 2004.

<sup>341</sup> Black Spruce Heritage Services 2004.



pond's configuration or from flooding events. Several drains and culverts were observed in the northern trench. Some dredging was conducted around the Duck House in the northwest end. Excavations near the northeast corner of Griffin's Pond revealed 19th century artifacts in disturbed soil. Stone liners were installed and some reshaping of the banks was also conducted.<sup>342</sup>

Extensive work was also done in 2004 to reshape the Middle and Lower pond, which contained large numbers of artifacts, including boots and shoes found preserved in the wet soils of the stream banks. Excavation around the island in the Middle Pond revealed a rich deposit of artifacts, including wine bottles and rough slipware, as well as 9 boots and shoes likely dating to the 1920s.<sup>343</sup>

In 2006, archaeological monitoring of catch basin installation in the west side, south end of the gardens was conducted. The monitoring indicated that much of this area had experienced previous disturbance, although artifacts were recovered from disturbed contexts, mainly dating to the 19th century. Additionally, there was some evidence of a disturbed structure or drainage feature, particularly to the north of the catch basin trench.<sup>344</sup>

Archaeological monitoring of a trench for a drain in the south end of the Gardens near Horticultural Hall in 2012 revealed the remains of a natural stream that appeared to have been infilled by brick and rock. Monitoring at the Citadel High School property for the installation of a steam line in 2006 and 2007 identified a mortared stone culvert. The culvert was set into the bedrock and may have been related to the diversion or channeling of Freshwater Brook. Archaeological monitoring at the Public Gardens in 2008 revealed a ceramic pipe used to channel and divert Freshwater Brook. The 2008 monitoring indicated that the outflow for Freshwater Brook runs east to South Park Street, where it is assumed to join with a sewer running north-south.<sup>345</sup>

Finally, in October 2017, Davis MacIntyre & Associates conducted an archaeological assessment for the proposed dredging of Griffin's Pond in the Halifax Public Gardens. The assessment was limited to a desktop study and reconnaissance. This assessment included a review of historic records and previous archaeological assessment reports and concluded that the entire area of Griffin's Pond was evaluated to be of elevated potential for historic archaeological resources and of low potential for First Nations archaeological resources. The high potential areas were determined to be the west end of the south side of the pond, the west side and west end of the north side of the pond. The interior of the pond, east end of the north side, east end of the south side and east

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<sup>342</sup> Black Spruce Heritage Services 2005.

<sup>343</sup> Black Spruce Heritage Services 2005.

<sup>344</sup> Davis Archaeological Consultants 2006a; 2006b.

<sup>345</sup> Black Spruce Heritage Services 2008; Davis Archaeological Consultants. 2007a; 2008.

side were evaluated to be of moderate potential for historic period resources.<sup>346</sup>

Davis Archaeological Consultants Limited was asked to provide emergency assessment and salvage operations for a historic midden that was uncovered in front of the Dalhousie University Clinical Research Centre at 5849 University Avenue in 2007. The midden was uncovered while trenching for conduit and light standards in front of the building. The artifacts collected had a mean date of 1865 and suggested that they were related to institutional, rather than domestic, land use. It was suggested that the midden may be related to the City Hospital opened in 1860, the Poor Asylum (1859), the Convent of the Sacred Heart (1849), or the Medical College (1875).<sup>347</sup>

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<sup>346</sup> Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited 2017b.

<sup>347</sup> Davis Archaeological Consultants 2007b.

Table 4.0-3: Table of known and potential archaeological resources in the South Common.

SOUTH COMMON - KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES									
Location within South Common	Description	Potential Archaeological Resource	Known Archaeological Resource	Location of Known Archaeological Resource	Previously Impacted	Description of Impact	Degree of Impact	Previous Archaeological Assessment	Potential of Encountering Resource During Future Ground Disturbance
Citadel High School property	Post-1917 Halifax Explosion tenements		⊙	North end of Citadel High School property at intersection of Trollope Street & Ahern Avenue, secondary deposit bulldozed from construction of school.	⊙	Construction of roundabout in 2015; construction of Citadel High School; construction of Nova Scotia Community College Bell Road Campus; construction of current recreational facilities (basketball courts)	Severe	North Park Street Roundabout, Phase II (A2015NS014)	Low - deposits completely removed during 2015 roundabout construction
Citadel High School property	Late 18th to early 19th century military midden deposit		⊙	North end of Citadel High School property at intersection of Trollope Street & Ahern Avenue, tertiary deposit behind curb at north end.	⊙	Construction of roundabout in 2015; construction of Citadel High School; construction of Nova Scotia Community College Bell Road Campus; construction of current recreational facilities (basketball courts)	Severe	North Park Street Roundabout, Phase II (A2015NS014)	Low - deposits completely removed during 2015 roundabout construction
Citadel High School to Halifax Infirmary property	19th and 20th century infilling/dumping		⊙	Steam line trench running from Citadel High School, across north end of Nova Scotia Museum property to Halifax Infirmary	⊙	Construction of Citadel High School; construction of Nova Scotia Museum; 20th century utilities, landscaping & infrastructure	Variable	Citadel High School Steam Line Installation (A2006NS079, A2007NS004)	High - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Nova Scotia Museum property	20th century City Works buildings (2 concrete foundations)		⊙	Steam line trench running from Citadel High School, across north end of Nova Scotia Museum property to Halifax Infirmary	⊙	Construction of Citadel High School; construction of Nova Scotia Museum; 20th century utilities, landscaping & infrastructure	Variable	Citadel High School Steam Line Installation (A2006NS079, A2007NS004)	Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Nova Scotia Museum property	19th century diversion of Freshwater Brook (mortared stone culvert)		⊙	Steam line trench running from Citadel High School, across north end of Nova Scotia Museum property to Halifax Infirmary	⊙	18th to 20th century infilling; 19th & 20th century trails and landscaping; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable	Citadel High School Steam Line Installation (A2006NS079, A2007NS004)	Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Nova Scotia Museum property	20th century infilling/public dumping		⊙	South end of visitor parking lot	⊙	20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable	Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History Parking Lot Expansion (A2002NS039)	High - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits

SOUTH COMMON - KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES									
Location within South Common	Description	Potential Archaeological Resource	Known Archaeological Resource	Location of Known Archaeological Resource	Previously Impacted	Description of Impact	Degree of Impact	Previous Archaeological Assessment	Potential of Encountering Resource During Future Ground Disturbance
Bengal Lancers property	19th century infilling/dumping		⊙	North side of Bengal Lancers paddock	⊙	Construction of Bengal Lancers facilities; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable	Bengal Lancers New Riding Paddock (A2006NS037)	High - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Bengal Lancers property	Late 19th to early 20th century City Works building (concrete foundation)		⊙	West side of Bengal Lancers paddock	⊙	Construction of Bengal Lancers facilities; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable	Bengal Lancers New Riding Paddock (A2006NS037)	Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Wanderers Grounds	19th century infilling/dumping		⊙	Entire area of grounds	⊙	2017 field upgrades; Wanderers Grounds recreational facilities; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable	Wanderers Grounds Field Lighting Archaeological Monitoring (A2014NS039); Wanderers Grounds Light and Signage Installation (A2017NS014)	High - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits below modern fill
Halifax Public Gardens	Early 19th century activity		⊙	Southern half of gardens	⊙	19th & 20th century infilling; 19th & 20th century trails and landscaping; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable	Archaeological Salvage: Excavations at the Halifax Public Gardens (A2004NS032)	High - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Halifax Public Gardens	Mid to late 19th century public dumping ground		⊙	Northern half of gardens	⊙	19th & 20th century infilling; 19th & 20th century trails and landscaping; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable	Archaeological Salvage: Excavations at the Halifax Public Gardens (A2004NS032); Halifax Public Gardens: Archaeology During the 2004 Restoration (A2004NS051)	High - intact & disturbed deposits
Halifax Public Gardens	Late 18th to early 19th century activity		⊙	East end of northern side of gardens	⊙	19th & 20th century infilling; 19th & 20th century trails and landscaping; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable	Archaeological Salvage: Excavations at the Halifax Public Gardens (A2004NS032)	High - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Halifax Public Gardens	19th century seed house		⊙	East side, near southeast corner of Griffin's Pond	⊙	2004 upgrades to garden; 19th & 20th century infilling; 19th & 20th century trails and landscaping; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable	Halifax Public Gardens: Archaeology During the 2004 Restoration (A2004NS051)	High - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits

SOUTH COMMON - KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES									
Location within South Common	Description	Potential Archaeological Resource	Known Archaeological Resource	Location of Known Archaeological Resource	Previously Impacted	Description of Impact	Degree of Impact	Previous Archaeological Assessment	Potential of Encountering Resource During Future Ground Disturbance
Halifax Public Gardens	19th to early 20th century activity		⊙	Griffin's Pond	⊙	2004 upgrades to garden; 19th & 20th century infilling; 19th & 20th century trails and landscaping; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable	Halifax Public Gardens: Archaeology During the 2004 Restoration (A2004NS051)	High - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Halifax Public Gardens	19th to early 20th century activity		⊙	Middle & Lower Ponds	⊙	2004 reshaping of ponds; 19th & 20th century landscaping	Variable	Halifax Public Gardens: Archaeology During the 2004 Restoration (A2004NS051)	Low - deposits severely impacted by 2004 reshaping, likely completely removed
Halifax Public Gardens	19th century activity (disturbed structure or drainage feature)		⊙	West side, south end of gardens	⊙	19th & 20th century trails, landscaping and infrastructure	Variable	Halifax Public Gardens (A2006NS010)	Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Halifax Public Gardens	Natural streambed infilled with brick and rock		⊙	South end of gardens near Horticultural Hall	⊙	19th & 20th century trails and landscaping; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable	Halifax Public Gardens: Excavations of French Drain near Horticultural Hall (A2012NS169)	Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Halifax Public Gardens	Ceramic pipe used to channel and divert Freshwater Brook		⊙	Between Main Gate and Lower Pond	⊙	19th & 20th century infilling; 19th & 20th century trails and landscaping; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable	Halifax Public Gardens Emergency Assessment of the Lower Pond Area	Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
5849 University Avenue	Mid 19th century midden		⊙	Between sidewalk and building	⊙	2007 conduit and light trenching; construction of Dalhousie University Clinical Research Centre; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable	Dalhousie Clinical Research Centre Project (A2007NS062)	Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Entire area, Freshwater Brook & other past watercourses	Precontact & historic First Nations activity	⊙			⊙	18th, 19th & 20th century infilling & development; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Severe		Low - 18th to 20th century impact & severe changes to watercourses and landscape likely destroyed any archaeological deposits
IWK property	19th to 20th century Poor House occupation	⊙			⊙	20th century construction of IWK facility; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Severe		Low to Moderate - some intact or disturbed deposits may exist around edges of property & under sidewalks

SOUTH COMMON - KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Location within South Common	Description	Potential Archaeological Resource	Known Archaeological Resource	Location of Known Archaeological Resource	Previously Impacted	Description of Impact	Degree of Impact	Previous Archaeological Assessment	Potential of Encountering Resource During Future Ground Disturbance
IWK property	20th century medical facilities and occupation	⊙			⊙	20th century construction of IWK facility; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Severe		Low to Moderate - some intact or disturbed deposits may exist around edges of property & under sidewalks
Victoria General Hospital property	20th century medical facilities and occupation	⊙			⊙	20th century construction of Victoria General facilities; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Severe		Low to Moderate - some intact or disturbed deposits may exist around edges of property & under sidewalks or parking lots
Victoria General Hospital parking lot	19th to 20th century Halifax School for the Blind occupation	⊙			⊙	20th century utilities & infrastructure	Moderate		High - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits may exist under parking lot
Victoria General Hospital parking lot	19th to 20th century Halifax School for the Blind occupation	⊙			⊙	20th century utilities & infrastructure	Moderate		High - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits may exist under parking lot
Dalhousie University, Carlton Campus	19th to 20th century Dalhousie University occupation	⊙			⊙	20th century development; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Severe		Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits under landscaped (undeveloped) areas, under parking lots & sidewalks
Dalhousie University, Carlton Campus	19th to 20th century City Works occupation	⊙			⊙	20th century development; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Severe		Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits under landscaped (undeveloped) areas, under parking lots & sidewalks
Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre	19th to 20th century City Works occupation	⊙			⊙	Construction of Rehabilitation Centre; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable		High - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits under parking lots & sidewalks
Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre	20th century military occupation	⊙			⊙	Construction of Rehabilitation Centre; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable		High - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits under parking lots & sidewalks
Victoria Park	19th to 20th century general activity (infilling, recreation, etc.)	⊙			⊙	19th & 20th century trails, landscaping, utilities & infrastructure	Variable		Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Camp Hill Cemetery	18th to early 19th century military occupation	⊙			⊙	19th & 20th century burials; 19th & 20th century trails & infrastructure	Severe		Low - deposits likely completely disturbed by burial activity. Burials are not considered

SOUTH COMMON - KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Location within South Common	Description	Potential Archaeological Resource	Known Archaeological Resource	Location of Known Archaeological Resource	Previously Impacted	Description of Impact	Degree of Impact	Previous Archaeological Assessment	Potential of Encountering Resource During Future Ground Disturbance
									archaeological resources.
Public Gardens	19th to 20th century recreation occupation	⊙			⊙	19th & 20th century trails and landscaping; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable		Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Public Gardens, south end	Early 19th century domestic occupation	⊙			⊙	19th & 20th century trails and landscaping; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable		Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Wanderers Grounds, Bengal Lancers property	19th and 20th century recreation occupation	⊙			⊙	Construction of Bengal Lancers facilities; 19th & 20th century trails and landscaping; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable		Moderate - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Wanderers Grounds, Bengal Lancers property, Nova Scotia Museum property	19th and 20th century infilling/dumping	⊙			⊙	Construction of Nova Scotia Museum; construction of Bengal Lancers facilities; 19th & 20th century trails and landscaping; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable		High - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Wanderers Grounds, Bengal Lancers property, Nova Scotia Museum property	19th and 20th century City Works occupation	⊙			⊙	Construction of Nova Scotia Museum; construction of Bengal Lancers facilities; 19th & 20th century trails and landscaping; 20th century utilities & infrastructure	Variable		High - pockets of intact & disturbed deposits
Halifax Infirmary	18th to 19th century military occupation	⊙			⊙	Construction of Halifax Infirmary facilities; construction of Queen Elizabeth High School; 20th century landscaping, utilities & infrastructure	Severe		Low to Moderate - some intact or disturbed deposits may exist around edges of property & under sidewalks

SOUTH COMMON - KNOWN ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Location within South Common	Description	Potential Archaeological Resource	Known Archaeological Resource	Location of Known Archaeological Resource	Previously Impacted	Description of Impact	Degree of Impact	Previous Archaeological Assessment	Potential of Encountering Resource During Future Ground Disturbance
Halifax Infirmary	19th to 20th century military medical occupation	⊙			⊙	Construction of Halifax Infirmary facilities; construction of Queen Elizabeth High School; 20th century landscaping, utilities & infrastructure	Severe		Low to Moderate - some intact or disturbed deposits may exist around edges of property & under sidewalks



## 5.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

Land use and occupation of the peninsula and, indeed, the Common extends back to time immemorial when the Mi'kmaq and their ancestors hunted, fished, gathered and camped on these lands. Ceremonial use and burial is also known to have occurred in the near vicinity of the Common lands. In historic times, the Mi'kmaq had a notable presence on the peninsula and it is well established that they hunted and fished on what would eventually become the Halifax Common, and likely had short-term or seasonal encampments here as well.

When the first British settlers arrived in 1749 and began building the town, what was to become the Common was a swampy wasteland situated outside the town proper. In 1760, the government laid out these lands for the perpetual use of the public and was intended to be open pasturage. Though the Common underwent several changes and developments since that time, the land at the north end (what is now known as the North and Central Common) was reserved for the military and, with the exception of temporary barracks in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was largely undeveloped until park improvements (including the aquatic facilities) were made and Queen Elizabeth High School was constructed in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Much of the South Common north of Spring Garden Road was used as a public dumping ground up until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century while the area to the south of the road was slowly being developed, both privately and institutionally. Camp Hill remained largely under the purview of the military until 1843 when the first public cemetery outside the old town's plot was established here. The remaining northern portion of Camp Hill was left largely open until the construction of the first hospital on the site in 1917. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, the Nova Scotia Horticultural gardens were laid out on what is now the Halifax Public Gardens and the Gardens have undergone several improvements over the past 175 years. It also suffered considerable damage in 2003 as a result of Hurricane Juan.

Common land around Spring Garden quickly passed into private hands in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and was not a part of this assessment. The remainder of the South Common was remained relatively open until the late-19<sup>th</sup> century. The Exhibition Tower, several city works buildings and open land were gradually replaced with a variety of public and private institutions, precursors to the hospitals and university spaces within the South Common boundaries today. These institutions included the Poor House, City Hospital, Convent of Sacred Heart and Dalhousie University.

Developments and archaeological assessments over the past decade and a half have attested to the extensive use of the Common as a 19<sup>th</sup> century dumping ground, particularly in the area of the Central Common and north end of the South Common

(north of Spring Garden Road). These developments, in tandem with earlier 20<sup>th</sup> century developments (Queen Elizabeth High School, Halifax Infirmary, Nova Scotia Museum of Natural History and Citadel High School, for example) have had a significant impact on extant archaeological resources. The original course of Freshwater Brook can no longer be traced as it was diverted several times in the late 19<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and, therefore, vestiges of potential First Nations land use on the Common are very difficult to locate or predict.

A large sample of artifacts have been collected from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century public dump on the Common and deposits will continue to be unearthed with each shovel or excavator bucket that comes out of the ground. Some of this material has been disturbed several times through late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century improvements and developments and, therefore, its significance as an archaeological resource in those areas is low. However, pockets of original deposits have been encountered throughout the study area and there are areas that remain relatively undisturbed. The depth of intact archaeological deposits varies as much as the depth of previous disturbance so that each new development requires assessing on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, it is recommended that any further ground disturbance on the Common in those areas, and to those depths, not previously disturbed be subjected to an archaeological assessment that includes, at a minimum, monitoring by a qualified archaeologist.

South of Spring Garden Road, much of the original Common is extensively developed, including the IWK & Victoria General Hospital sites and Dalhousie University's Carleton Campus. In these heavily developed areas, the potential for archaeological resources is low, although there is more moderate potential in areas that have been less disturbed, such as sidewalks, open spaces and parking lots. Of particular note are the Victoria General parking lot and Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre parking lot, which have been evaluated to be of high potential for encountering archaeological resources. It is recommended that further ground disturbance on the South Common's institution properties within areas that have not been previously developed (such as parking lots, sidewalks and parks) should be subject to an archaeological assessment that includes, at minimum, monitoring by a qualified archaeologist.

A priority of the Master Plan is to develop a schematic design for the Central Common including redevelopment of the existing outdoor aquatic facilities, playground and green space. No previous archaeological assessments for the Central Common have been conducted. However, maps of the existing facilities and underground services suggest that these developments have undoubtedly had a significant impact on the original course of Freshwater Brook, the Egg Pond (formerly Black Duck Pond) and any potential archaeological resources that may have existed here. However, the potential may still exist for pockets of both intact and disturbed archaeological deposits surrounding these modern features. Intact archaeological resources may still remain beneath the grassed areas as well as beneath the playground, basketball court, baseball field, tennis courts, and asphalt walkways. Therefore, it is recommended that any ground disturbance in the

Central Common that extends beyond the horizontal or vertical levels of previous disturbance be monitored by a qualified archaeologist and that any intact and significant archaeological resources be properly mitigated. The preferred method of mitigation in all instances where archaeological resources are expected to be impacted is avoidance. However, in those instances where avoidance is not possible, mitigation may include full-scale excavation, artifact/feature sampling, or salvage collection and, in all cases, full-scale recording of any archaeological deposits and/or features. The level of mitigation is to be determined in consultation with the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage and is dependent upon the significance and integrity of the archaeological resource.

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**Appendix A:  
Heritage Research Permit**





# Heritage Research Permit (Archaeology)

Special Places Protection Act 1989

(Original becomes Permit when approved by  
Communities, Culture and Heritage)

Office Use Only  
Permit Number:

A2017NS091

*Grayed out fields will be made publically available. Please choose your project name accordingly*

Surname	MacIntyre	First Name	April
Project Name	Halifax Common Master Plan		
Name of Organization	Davis MacIntyre & Associates Limited		
Representing (if applicable)			
Permit Start Date	10 November 2017	Permit End Date	31 December 2017
General Location:	Halifax Common		
Specific Location: <small>(cite Borden numbers and UTM designations where appropriate and as described separately in accordance with the attached Project Description. Please refer to the appropriate Archaeological Heritage Research Permit Guidelines for the appropriate Project Description format)</small>	20 T 453826.00 m E 4943503.00 m N (WGS84)		
Permit Category: Please choose one	<input type="checkbox"/> Category A – Archaeological Reconnaissance <input type="checkbox"/> Category B – Archaeological Research <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Category C – Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I certify that I am familiar with the provisions of the <i>Special Places Protection Act</i> of Nova Scotia and that I have read, understand and will abide by the terms and conditions listed in the Heritage Research Permit Guidelines for the above noted category.		
Signature of applicant	Date		27 October 2017
Approved by Executive Director	Date		NOV-17