

Halifax, Nova Scotia
Halifax Citadel
Casemates 5 and 6, Southwest Demi-Bastion
Halifax Defence Complex

Casemates 5 and 6 in the Citadel at Halifax were constructed between 1847 and 1848 for the colonial garrison of the Imperial War department based at Halifax. The Casemates, brick vaulted structures under the ramparts of the Southwest Demi-Bastion of the main work, were built as bombproof accommodation and storage space (in 1849 Casemates 5 and 6 were appropriated as Quarter Master and Engineers Stores respectively). The Casemates were the work of Lieutenant Colonel Patrick D. Calder (1842-1848), a member of the Corps of Royal Engineers, who both designed and supervised the construction. External modifications include: the breaking of a new window opening in the retaining wall at Casemate 5, converting the single punched lower window to a paired unit (1870-1879), the widening of the lower window in Casemate 6 (pre 1891), the widening of the door opening of Casemate 6 to twice its original width (pre 1891), the installation of raking shores in the ditch to support the unstable escarp wall (c. 1920), the breaking of a double door opening in the retaining wall of Casemate 6 and the bricking up of portions of the upper and lower windows (post 1950), and the reconstruction of the escarp and retaining walls on the left face of the Southwest Demi-Bastion (1980-1981). Internal modifications include: the application of a plaster finish to the pier walls, party wall and vaulted ceiling (n.d.). Casemates 5 and 6 are currently the property of Canadian Heritage. See FHBRO Building Report 95-01, Volume 1.

Reasons for Designation

Casemates 5 and 6 were designated Recognized because of the very good quality of their craftsmanship and materials, their association with an important designer, and the important role they play in the environment.

Seen from within the parade square the Casemates are notable for the equally high granite ashlar masonry front/retaining wall, pierced at intervals by window, door and ventilation openings. Internally, the brick lining of the Casemates, set off by the extensive use of chiseled granite for skewbacks, skirting, and the trimming of openings, displays a simple dignity and warmth.

Lieutenant Colonel Patrick D. Calder was one of three senior Royal Engineers to have a major impact on the design of the Citadel. By a long process of experimentation he developed a prototypical casemate design which addressed earlier inadequacies of

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waterproofing, drainage and ventilation. Casemates 5 and 6, which have performed with some success, are of this improved pattern.

Changes in the historical relationship between the Casemates and their associated landscape have had little impact on the character of the site. As integral components of the main body of the work, Casemates 5 and 6 have a strong, reinforcing influence on the military character of the Citadel.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Casemates resides in their status as specialized military structures for bombproof accommodation and storage. Externally, one of the features which defines the heritage character of these casemates is the construction of the walls - a thick, battered, back/escarp wall of irregular coursed, roughly squared ironstone reinforced by buttresses, and a vertical, front/retaining wall of coursed granite ashlar. Another character defining feature of these casemates is the treatment of openings in each wall.

The heritage character of the exterior would be best protected by conservation treatment of the iron bars on the windows and the iron down pipes bracketed off the retaining wall, cleaning of the iron oxide and efflorescence staining on the masonry, regular repointing of the ironstone and granite walling, regular inspection of potential weak points in the rampart waterproofing (the junction of the escarp and dwarf retaining walls with the roofs of the casemates), and keeping catchbasins and drains clear.

Internally the features which define the heritage character of these "Calder" casemates are the vaulted bomb-proof construction of the roofs, the internal drainage system for the vaults with down pipes buried in the pier and party walls, the ventilation system beneath the floor and back walls, and the open fireplaces (some being bricked up) connected by inclined flues to chimney stacks rising from the southern slope of the rampart.

The heritage character of the interior would be best protected by monitoring the performance of the waterproofing over the casemates and keeping up the plaster finishes on the wall and ceiling surfaces. Unblocking the bricked-up fireplaces, lamp

recess and ventilation openings, and restoring the historic timber floors would enhance

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the heritage character of the interior.

The historic relationship between Casemates 5 and 6 and the interior of the main body of the work has been enhanced and strengthened in recent years by the restoration of the retaining walls of the Southeast Salient, the boundary wall of the South Magazine, the ramp, and the surface of the parade. The continued maintenance of these features will preserve the military character of the fortress.

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