

**SALTER'S GATE
MARRIOTT COURTYARD HOTEL**

**THE HISTORY OF IT'S LOCATION
AS PART OF THE INTERIOR THEME**



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INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

The site of the Salter's Gate/Marriott Hotel was first built upon in the mid 18th century immediately following the founding of Halifax (1749).

Because of its significance the site was declared a "special place" by the Province of Nova Scotia and falls under the regulations of the Special Places Protection Act (<http://museum.gov.ns.ca/arch/sppa89.htm>).

As a result a historical background study and Resource Impact Assessment of the site was carried out, followed by an archaeological excavation. This work was carried out by Davis Archaeological Consultants Limited under license from the Province of Nova Scotia. A copy of the "Background Study/Resource Impact Assessment" is attached.

In the course of the archaeological phase of the excavation some 29 features and approximately 40,000 artifacts were found. Features have been documented with photos and archaeological drawings. Worthwhile artifacts are presently being conserved.

All artifacts are owned by and remain under the stewardship of the Province of Nova Scotia.

It is the opinion of the Owner, the archaeologist and the design/build team that many of the artifacts can be incorporated into the design of the hotel. To do this, permission will be required from the Nova Scotia Museum and the physical arrangements for display and security must meet the museum's requirements.

With this in mind, we have developed the following Heritage Program for the Salter's Gate Marriott Hotel.

Because the excavation is significant and the public's interest is high, a book is in the planning stages under the authorship of Stephen Davis and Saint Mary's University. It is anticipated that Nimbus will be the publisher. Stephen Davis, a professor at Saint Mary's has noted that the artifacts warrant at least two graduate theses.

THE PROGRAM'S OBJECTIVE

The objective of the program is to add the 4th dimension (time) to the projects design and in doing so impart a sense of uniqueness for the hotel, while maintaining all the standards and customer expectations of Courtyard Brand. It is our hope that this uniqueness will promote return visits and that customers will encourage business colleagues, friends and family to also enjoy the Salter's Gate Marriott when in Halifax.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

There are four possible elements to the program:

- Building Exterior
- Interior Display - 6 Locations
- Library
- Sales

BUILDING EXTERIOR

During the course of the site's "main" archaeological excavation several stone foundations and buried stone walls were uncovered yielding a large quantity of natural stone similar to that of the adjoining Keith Brewery property which accommodates one of Halifax's most important heritage resources.



It is anticipated that some of this "found stone" can be incorporated into the retaining walls of the arcade, landscaping walls and perhaps some of the low level exterior walls of the building. It is hoped that some of the best "found stone" can be used for the interior wall which accommodates the fireplace.

In addition, there are two areas adjacent to Hollis Street and Salter Street that are yet to be excavated. It is anticipated that these locations might yield architectural elements of interest; columns, capitols, etc. It is possible that some of these items may be of sufficient visual impact to warrant inclusion into the landscape or selected interior locations.

INTERIOR DISPLAY

There are five excellent possibilities to create five striking "full wall" display areas:

- The curved wall near the registration desk.
- The curved wall accommodating the fireplace.

- South wall of the Library.
- West wall of the Library.
- Wall outside of the washroom area.

It would also be appropriate to incorporate a free standing cabinet in the restaurant area as a sixth location.

Each of these locations could have a unifying theme. A description of each of these themes and themed locations follow.

The artifacts naturally group themselves into 10 thematic areas. We propose to fit one or more of these themes into each display area. These themes are:

- Children: toys, i.e. marbles, dolls, play dishes.
- Personal items: buttons, buckles, jewellery, wig curlers, clay pipes (organics: hat, belt, shoes; these will require conservation and costly display environments).
- Tavern: bottles, pipes, stemware, tankards.
- Kitchen: dishes, serving platters, cutlery, milk pans.
- Health & Hygiene: bottles, toothpaste, smelling salts, lice combs, ointment jars.
- Business/Commerce: ink wells, ink jars, boot blacking, pencils.
- Commemorative items: dishes with text.
- Exotic/Unusual: coconuts, conch shells, hat (single display with story).
- The Archaeology: drawings, photographs, historic documents (maps, deeds, etc.).
- Bathroom/Travellers: chamber pots, personal hygiene items (hair tonics, etc.).

It is important to bear in mind that the appended photographs of the artifacts represent only a small portion of the total number which will be available for display. The largest task of the conservation effort is the reconstruction of each object from the "found" pieces. It will be a number of months before this process is complete and the full range of objects can be appreciated.

As the artifacts remain the property of the Nova Scotia Museum they must be displayed to the standard and with the historical integrity required by the Museum.

Because security is important, large secure shadow boxes are proposed.

A location drawing follows.

LOCATION #1 - DESCRIPTION AND THEME

This location will show a large recessed shadow box running from the top of the baseboard to a height of 7' above finished floor and run the full width of the wall.

The box would be approximately 10" deep, with concealed interior pot lighting and faced with frameless and lockable glass doors.

The interior display would have a full surface historical image with thematic grouping of artifacts placed in front with concealed or/and transparent supports. Some areas of explanatory text will also be included.

The themes for this location would be #1 and #2. Photos of representative artifacts follow.

LOCATION #2 - DESCRIPTION AND THEME

This location shows a wall of "found stone" of the same type as used for the "Brewery Buildings". The "found stone" was recovered from the buried walls unearthed during the archaeological excavation.

The glass faced square niches will be set into this wall accommodating theme 3 items.

Photos of representative artifacts follow.

LOCATION #3 AND LOCATION #4 - DESCRIPTION AND THEME

These locations would show a shadow box of the same design as location #1.

The image backdrops would be different and theme related.

The themes for this location will be themes 5 through 8 for location #3 and theme 9 for location #4.

LOCATION #5 - DESCRIPTION AND THEME

This location will show a recessed shadow box of 3'-0" x 3'-0" with a secure, frameless glass face and a thematic image backdrop.

The theme for this location will be #5 and #10. Representative photos follow.

LOCATION #6 - DESCRIPTION AND THEME

Location 6, the dining area sees the incorporation of a largely glass case of constant design with the furnishings. It will be secure.

The theme for this area will be #4. Representative photos follow.

LIBRARY

With the inclusion of a Library as part of the Courtyard Brand there is an opportunity to incorporate a small section (6" - 1' shelf space) with materials describing the history of the site and the city. The section could include:

- A General History of Halifax - a number of books are available.
- Underground Halifax - a book by Paul Erickson.
- Salter's Gate History - the report by Davis Archaeological Consultants Ltd.
- Artifact Record - a report that is underway.
- Any number of the Nimbus Publications.

SALES

Copies of some of the items could be available for sale at the market or desk or an arrangement could be made with the Book Room which is just 2 blocks away.

OTHER POSSIBILITIES

- An illustration of the unique found plate on the Menu Cover.
- Reproductions of clay pipes and ceramics could be made available (Reproductions are available locally at *Olde World Fine Clays*: <http://www.bytor.com/pipes/pipes.htm>; *Sherbrooke Village Pottery Shop*: <http://collections.ic.gc.ca/handcrafttrade/trades/pottery.html>; and *Fortress Louisbourg*: <http://fortressoflouisbourg.ca/jingdezhen/platspage/platethumbnails2.html>; among others).
- It is possible to create a small selection of themed pamphlets to fit into the hotel's pamphlet file and into the selection found at the Tourist Information Centres.



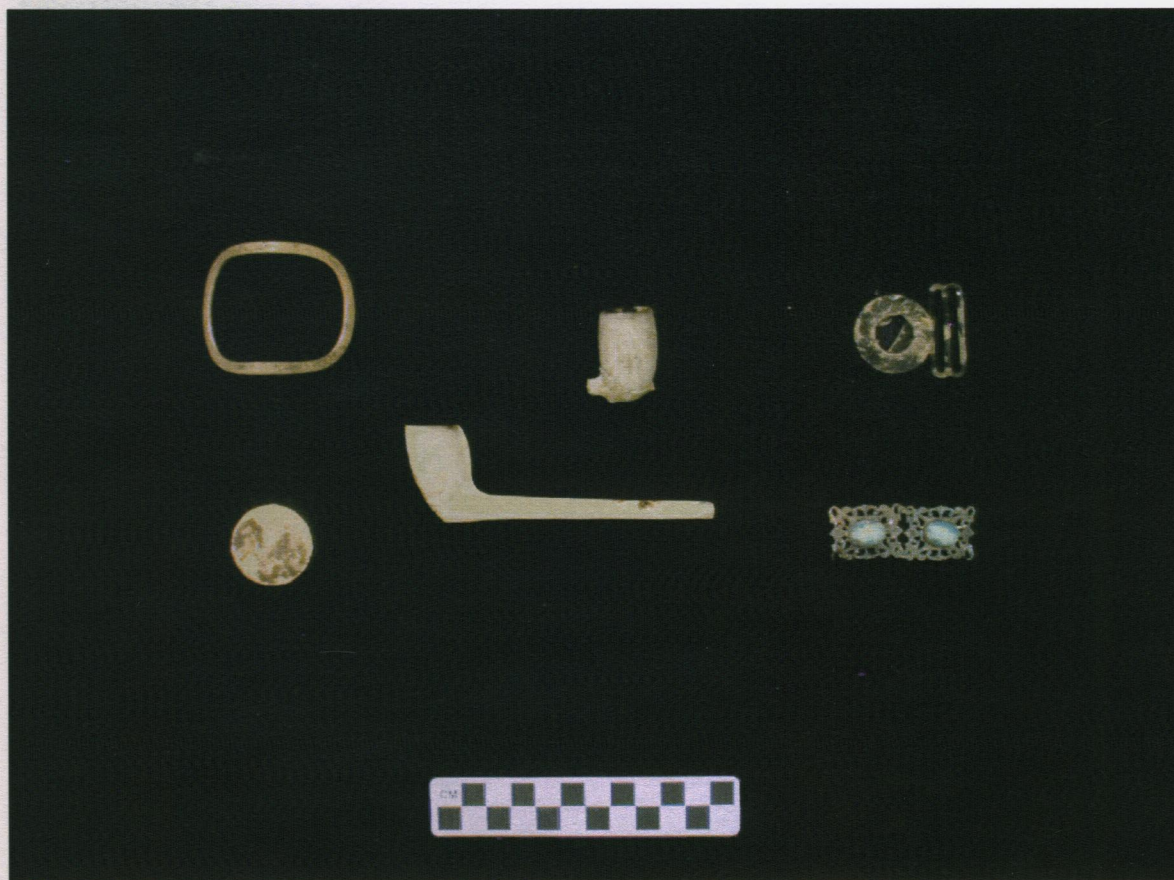
THEME 1 CHILDREN



The archaeological excavations produced many items related to the presence of children on the site. These ranged from clay marbles, porcelain doll arms, legs and heads to play dish sets. The set pictured came from a privy associated with a large house on the west side of the site near Hollis Street.

The set includes a sugar bowl, several platters, plates, and soup bowls with a pastoral scene. The set was manufactured sometime between 1780 and 1820, likely in England. The back of each item is marked with the number "4", the significance of which is not yet known.

THEME 2 PERSONAL ITEMS



The features excavated produced numerous items of a personal nature. Included in this theme are clay tobacco pipes of which several hundred were found. Other objects recovered included bone, wood, brass and shell buttons, brass boot buckles and other types of jewelry and coins.

The pipe illustrated in the centre of the photograph bears the makers mark "L. Fiolet a S^t Omer Déposé". This particular French Company manufactured clay pipes from 1765 to 1921 reaching peak production in 1860 of 10,000,000 per annum. This is the first of this type to be found in Nova Scotia.

THEME 3 TAVERN



The archaeological work identified the most probable location of the “Double Eagle” tavern as being in the south east corner of the lot. This feature remains unexcavated and was not disturbed by the construction activities. However, three associated features, a cistern with a “Holland pump” on top (windmill ?), a stable and a well were excavated.

The three creamware beer tankards (1760-1800) came from the well along with numerous other items that may relate to the patrons of the tavern. All of the features produced items related to the consumption of alcoholic beverages primarily liquor bottles, and various types of glassware.

THEME 4 KITCHEN



The most prevalent class of artifacts to come from the site relate to kitchen activities. Thousands of fragments were recovered from plates, bowls, cups, serving platters, etc. Other less common items included tea pots, egg cups, children's plates, pitchers, etc. The excavations also produced cutlery, candle holders, oil lamp globes and numerous containers.

The items illustrated are a very small sample representing English-manufactured blue transfer-printed pearlwares (1780-1820). These wares were highly desirable in early nineteenth-century North America as they represented a new ceramic manufacturing technique which allowed for easier mass production of items for the global market.

The bowl on the left is part of a matching set recovered from a late eighteenth- to early nineteenth-century privy associated with a residence on Hollis Street. The child's serving plate on the right exhibits the most widely manufactured transfer-printed motif in the nineteenth century – the Blue Willow pattern – which mimicked the desirable Chinese artwork of the period.

THEME 5
HEALTH & HYGIENE



The Salter's Gate Hotel site produced several hundred items related to health and personal hygiene, the most common being medicine bottles of various sizes and contents. The site produced numerous small vials which held smelling salts to revive the Victorian ladies of Halifax.

The illustration shows a Mynaird's Liniment bottle, two small medicine bottles and a smelling salts vial. Also pictured is the top of a tooth paste jar and a Holloway's ointment jar promoted to cure everything from gout and rheumatism to ulcers. The sample recovered is large enough to warrant an undergraduate thesis topic.

THEME 6
BUSINESS/COMMERCE



From its inception, Halifax was a port city involved not only in the defense of British North America but also a centre of commerce and manufacturing. The history of this city block reveals enterprises such as the tavern and brewery along with a chandlery and tallow shop. Later years saw portions of the block house professional offices of military officers and doctors. The excavation of their residences and offices has produced numerous objects that reflect commerce.

The illustration shows a large stoneware ink storage bottle with three smaller ink wells – two stoneware and one later glass example. The large bottle in the centre contained boot blacking, perhaps belonging to one of the military officers who occupied a residence on the site.

THEME 7
COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS



The site produced several items with printed text, that detailed contents, gave praise or commemorated an event. The examples include a James Keiller & Sons Marmalade Jar commemorating their prize medal at the 1862 International Exhibition as well as a plate with a praise suitable for the Hotel's Restaurant menu:

PEACE AND PLENTY
A Good Conscience
And a Table Well furnished
With Plenty of good
Provisions
WHAT IS BETTER THAN THAT

The small souvenir cup commemorates fires in Quebec in 1836 which states: "Amount of Property destroyed 1,000,000 Dollars."

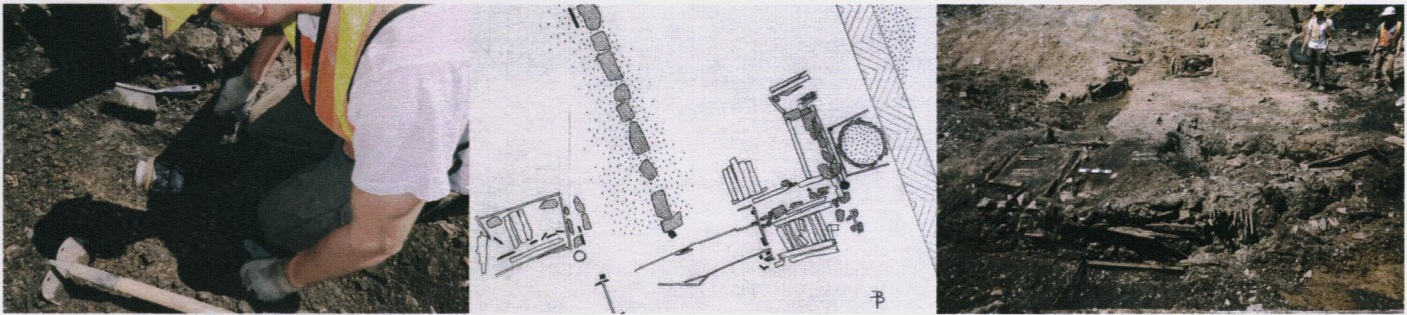
THEME 8
EXOTIC/UNUSUAL



As with most archaeological sites, artifacts are found which are often unusual or exotic in origin. Salter's Gate is no exception producing items such as coconut shells and large conch shells, possibly from the Pacific. The other fascinating side of artifact analysis is the country of origin for the objects under study.

The two stoneware bottles illustrated were from an unusual brick feature whose function remains unknown. These items are classic examples of nineteenth-century global commerce in a port city. They contained carbonated seltzer water as determined by stamped impressions on each. What is of interest is their point of origin - "HERZOGTHUM NASSAU" - which is German for "The Principality of Nassau". They were in production from 1801 to 1835 and one wonders if this represents a continuity with the German settlers who arrived with Governor Cornwallis in 1749.

THEME 9 THE ARCHAEOLOGY



In Nova Scotia, developments such as the Salter's Gate Hotel may require archaeological resource impact assessments. These are dictated by the provincial Special Places Protection Act (1980) and administered by the Nova Scotia Museum (NSM). The Act comes with a set of guidelines which steer the responsibilities and activities of the archaeological efforts. In this project, as each archaeological feature (ie. house, privy, well, drain, etc.) was encountered, the NSM was consulted to determine a course of mitigation.

The illustrations show the excavation of a wormware pattern pitcher from a feature interpreted as a stable (left). The stable was extensively recorded with detailed descriptions, field drawings (centre), and photographs (right). Although it is early in the analysis, the feature's construction is believed to be a form known as "colombage" which consists of wood planks filled in with stone.

THEME 10
BATHROOM/TRAVELLERS



A number of the exotic/unusual items found provide evidence for travel or contact with other countries. There are other goods that speak of transportation, notably steamship china. Mention has been made (theme 5) of personal hygiene items, some of which would have accompanied the nineteenth-century traveler. Examples include combs, brushes, toothbrushes, and various other care products (hair tonics, etc.)

The site produced a number of specialized features not often thought of for an urban centre, namely privies. Indoor plumbing did not come to Halifax much before 1860. Thus we find such utilitarian items as the chamber pot pictured above.