

**GOVERNMENT HOUSE, HALIFAX:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Heritage Research Permit A2006NS76, A2007NS05



March 2007

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE, HALIFAX:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Heritage Research Permit A2006NS76, A2007NS05
Category C

Davis Archaeological Consultants Limited

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Cover: East (Hollis Street) façade of Government House.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Davis Archaeological Consultants Limited conducted an archaeological resource impact assessment of renovations at Government House in Halifax from November 2006 to February 2007. The assessment included surface reconnaissance of the property grounds as well as archaeological monitoring of excavations in the moat, beneath the existing floor in the interior basement, and at the southeast corner of the exterior of the house. Three test trenches were also excavated between the carriage house and the north side of the main house which were monitored by an archaeologist.

Archaeological resources were observed in the moat as well as beneath the floor of the basement and on the south wall of the carriage house in the excavated trench. Recommendations for monitoring of any ground disturbance inside the carriage house have been made. Early nineteenth century artifacts were observed in a disturbed context in the gardens on the southeast side of the house. No additional monitoring is required in those areas investigated by archaeologists. However, recommendations for monitoring on the west side of the house in the gardens and on the east side of the grounds near the entrance to the house have been made if future ground disturbance is to occur in these areas. These areas have not been investigated and may contain in situ archaeological resources.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In November 2006, Davis Archaeological Consultants Limited was contracted by CBCL Limited Consulting Engineers to conduct an archaeological resource impact assessment of Government House in Halifax. The purpose of the assessment was to determine the potential for archaeological resources within the development zone and to provide recommendations for further mitigation if necessary. The assessment included a surface reconnaissance of the entire grounds as well as archaeological monitoring of mechanical excavation in the moat on the Barrington Street side of the house as well on the north side of the house (Figure 2.0-1). Inspection of core drills inside the basement beneath the existing floor was also conducted.

In December 2006 and January and February 2007, archaeological monitoring of excavations inside the basement was conducted. Trenching on the north side of the exterior of the house was also monitored and investigation of trenching at the southeast corner was carried out by a qualified archaeologist.

The assessment was conducted under Category C Heritage Research Permits A2006NS76 and A2007NS05 issued by the Nova Scotia Heritage Division (Appendix A). The site has been designated BdCv-52 by the Nova Scotia Heritage Division. This report conforms to the standards required by the Heritage Division under the Special Places program.

2.0 DEVELOPMENT AREA

Government House is located at 1451 Barrington Street in downtown Halifax. The property is bounded on the west by Barrington Street, the east by Hollis Street, the south by Bishop's Row, and the north by St. Matthew's Church. The entire property is surrounded by a stone wall with gates on the Barrington and Hollis Street sides. For the purpose of this assessment, the development area encompasses the moat on the Barrington Street (west) side of the house, the southeast garden, the interior basement, and three test trenches on the north side of the house. The surface of the moat was capped with concrete in the 1920s. The moat stretches from the northwest to southwest corner of the house extending beneath the Barrington Street entrance to the house and is approximately 1.2 metres wide and 2.5 metres deep from the top of the stone retaining wall to the concrete surface of the moat.

2.1 Historical Background

Government House was constructed between 1799 and 1805 under the architectural direction of Isaac Hildrith. The house was built for the newly appointed Governor Sir John Wentworth and is the oldest official government residence in Canada.¹ This house was built to replace the original dilapidated Governor's residence, built in 1758, where

¹ Canada's Historic Places Registry.

Province House now stands.² The recently arrived Jamaican Maroons were employed in the construction of Government House.³ Originally, the main entrance to the house was on Hollis Street but shortly after completion, the entrance was moved to the Barrington Street side. Early depictions of the grounds show several structures on the Hollis Street side which appear to be guard houses (Figure 2.1-1). The carriage house on the north side of the property was constructed in the late-nineteenth century.⁴



Figure 2.1-1: *Government House At Halifax Facing North-East, Hollis Street.* Guard houses can be seen in front of the entrance.⁵

3.0 METHODOLOGY

An archaeological reconnaissance of the entire property as well as inspection of core drills in the basement of the house was conducted by two archaeologists on 21 November 2006. Subsurface disturbance near the southeast corner of the house in the nearby garden revealed a concentration of sherds of creamware, pearlware, and whiteware ceramics on the surface. This artifact concentration is likely due to recent disturbance resulting from excavation for a drainage feature extending from the southeast corner of the house to a

² Landry, 2006.

³ Nova Scotia Archives and Records Management.

⁴ Canada's Historic Places Registry.

⁵ <http://www.blupete.com/Hist/NovaScotiaBk2/Part4/Images/GovernmentHouseNE.htm>. Drawn by J. E. Woolford and published in 1819.

manhole at the corner of Hollis Street and Bishop's Row. A verbal recommendation to monitor further excavation in this area has been made.

Visual inspection of the gardens on the west side of the house and landscaped areas along the Barrington Street property wall revealed fragments of black bottle glass, flat glass, and brick. An 1856 Nova Scotia Half Penny Token as well as a sherd of a grey stoneware blacking bottle were collected by Mr. Ken Jacobson, a stone mason, to whom we are grateful for turning them over to the archaeologists (Plate 1). The coin was collected from a backdirt pile so that its original provenance is not known.

The concrete was removed from two areas approximately 0.75 metres wide in the north and south ends of the moat and the overlying soil removed to the depth of bedrock for inspection by the construction and archaeological crew on 21 November 2006 (Plates 2 and 3, respectively). There was approximately 0.45 metres of fill on top of the bedrock in the south end of the moat and 0.60 metres of fill in the north end of the moat. A fragment of burnt dark green bottle glass and several fragments of brick were observed in the fill. Prior to mechanical excavation of the moat, the concrete cap was broken up with a jack hammer and the concrete removed. Mechanical excavation was facilitated by a mini-backhoe sitting in the moat and material was removed using a system of conveyor belts stretching from inside the moat to the surface of the driveway 2.5 metres above. Due to space restrictions and safety, archaeological monitoring was conducted from above at the end of the conveyor belt (Plate 4). Artifacts were collected here and bagged with reference to the area of the moat from which they were removed.

Visual inspection of the original interior basement floor on 21 November 2006 was facilitated by previous removal of three portions of the existing floor. The potential for archaeological resources beneath the existing basement floor potentially related to the Jamaican Maroons is of concern to the archaeologists. Several archaeologists studying the archaeology of African diaspora in North America have identified *minkisi*, or specialized artifact caches, particularly in kitchens and laundries or beneath thresholds of the large plantations where they employed or enslaved.⁶

The first drilled area in the basement was in the locker room on the north side of the kitchen immediately west of the kitchen entrance. Here, a potential footing or threshold approximately 0.3 metres wide and constructed of a single course of brick on top of Halifax slate was observed. The original dry-stone slate wall of the kitchen was exposed from behind the current wood planked wall (Plate 5).

The second drilled area was in the room immediately east of the locker room along the room's north wall. A stone drainage feature was observed running north-south (Plate 6). The final drilled area was on the north wall of the locker room in an area slated for an elevator shaft. Directly beneath the current floor were slate floor tiles from the original floor (Plate 7).

⁶ diZerega Wall, 2000.

Three test trenches were mechanically excavated between the main house and the carriage house. The first test unit along the south wall of the carriage house revealed a stone and brick footing sitting atop a dry stone footing approximately 1.5 metres below the existing concrete wall of the carriage house. A second trench dug along the north wall of the main house near the northeast corner consisted of modern fill, pea gravel, rock, and plastic or PVC drain pipes. The third trench was dug along the north wall of the main house near the northwest corner and exhibited the same soil matrix as the second trench. Landscaping fabric was also observed in this final trench. Testing in this area indicated that the bedrock slopes eastward suggesting that only the footing for the main house was dug out during construction.

During removal of the concrete floor in the basement, archaeologists investigated areas of cultural activity at an on-call basis. Features inside the house were left undisturbed until investigated by an archaeologist. Each feature was recorded according to the archaeological standards of the Nova Scotia Heritage Division.

A Maritime Archaeological Resource Inventory form was completed for the site (Appendix C).

4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Moat

Soil removed from beneath the concrete in the moat is believed to be fill likely deposited in the early twentieth century when the moat was capped. It was believed possible that the fill was removed from adjacent areas of the property or from nearby properties and may be related to early occupation of Halifax. However, no evidence of early archaeological materials was seen in the fill. A considerable amount of fragmented brick and slate was present in the fill as well as late nineteenth to early twentieth century ceramics and glass. These artifacts include sherds of white refined earthenware and vitrified earthenware as well as dark green bottle glass which were very common to Halifax and are of little archaeological significance.

Archaeological monitoring of a wood-lined drain in the south moat was conducted on 07 February 2007. The drain was oriented roughly southeast by northwest and extended across the width of the moat. Adjacent to the house, the wood-lined portion of the feature connected to a clay drainage pipe which leads under the exterior wall of the house into the kitchen area. The interior of the drain was heavily silted (Plate 8). No artifacts were encountered in the drain.

Several small sherds of late nineteenth century ceramics and glass were collected from the moat and catalogued.

4.2 Southeast garden

The gardens near the southeast corner of the house have revealed artifacts associated with the early (c. 1805-1840) occupation of the house. This area was recently disturbed by excavation of a trench for sanitary sewer. Investigation of an excavated trench at the exterior southeast corner of the house and along the south wall revealed gravel fill beneath the concrete walkway. Directly beneath the gravel was bedrock. PVC conduit could be seen running through the gravel fill (Plate 9). On the east side near the corner was an area approximately 0.60 metres in length in the trench profile which showed undisturbed soil. No *in situ* artifacts were encountered in this area.

4.3 Interior floor

Archaeological monitoring and investigation of excavations inside the basement revealed a network of stone-lined drains (Figure 4.3-1). In the caretaker's suite at the northwest corner of the basement, a remnant of a stone-lined drain was investigated by the archaeologist which ran underneath the east wall of the room (Plate 10). In the front-facing storage room immediately to the southeast two intersecting, perpendicular, drains were investigated. The east-west aligned drain was 50 cm wide and was comprised of bedrock on the north side and Halifax slate on the south side. The drain was capped with large Halifax slate stones measuring at least 90 centimetres by 20 centimetres. The drain was heavily silted at the bottom but the silt was cleaned out of a portion of the drain so that a depth measurement of 59 centimetres was obtained (Plate 11). The north-south aligned drain was much smaller, measuring 20 centimetres in width and 26 centimetres in depth. Again, the drain was capped with large Halifax slate stones and was constructed on both sides of Halifax slate. No cultural materials were seen in either of the drains. At the north end of this drain, where it extended from the entrance to the furnace room, the stone construction met a course earthenware pipe (Plate 12).

The east-west aligned drain continued under the east wall of this room to the storage room in behind (to the east). Here, the drain curved southward and continued beneath the south wall of the storage room (Plate 13). It was not seen in the room to the south.

In the lounge at the east side of the house, a similar curved drain extended from beneath the north wall of the room approximately one metre east of the west wall and curved around the fireplace to extend westward beneath the west wall of the lounge. Again, the extension of the drain was not seen in the room to the north or the west.

The cap stones from the drainage features were removed and the drains in-filled for stabilization beneath the new flooring. The walls of the drains themselves were minimally disturbed, if at all.

Several artifacts were collected by the construction crew from disturbed contexts. The artifacts include a complete French wine bottle from the last half of the nineteenth century and several wine bottle finishes ranging in date from as early as the last half of the eighteenth century and as late as 1840. Likewise, ceramics collected from the interior

ranged in date from the turn of the nineteenth century to the turn of the twentieth century and possibly beyond.

4.4 Test trenches

Early structural remnants of a building were discovered during test trenching on the south side of the carriage house and additional structural remains and artifacts may be present around the base and beneath the floor of the carriage house. These remnants may be related to the carriage house itself or to an earlier structure.

5.0 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Original drainage features were encountered in the south moat as well as in the interior of the basement. These features were investigated and recorded by archaeologists. Artifacts collected from inside and outside the house were recovered from disturbed or secondary deposits and have been catalogued. Excavation in the moat and the interior basement was extensive and no additional archaeological resources are believed to exist in these areas. Therefore, no further archaeological assessment is necessary in these areas.

Excavation in the southeast garden revealed previous disturbance associated with installation of sanitary sewer services. However, excavation in this area prior to archaeological monitoring did reveal numerous disturbed artifacts which were observed on the surface, many of which are associated with the earliest occupation of the house. Historic depictions of the grounds show that there were guard houses near the Hollis Street entrance to the house and gardens on the north and south sides. Due to the potential for additional in-situ resources on the east side of the house, it is recommended that any future ground disturbance in this area be monitored by a qualified archaeologist.

Test trenching on the north and northeast corner of the house revealed structural remains of a building, the age and function of which is not known. Therefore, any future ground disturbance in this area should be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. Furthermore, any disturbance on the west side of the building in the gardens should also be monitored due to the potential for additional in situ resources.

Finally, any ground disturbance beneath the floor of the carriage house should be monitored as this structure is “a valuable reference to the era of horse and buggy transportation” and is valued for its association with the official residence.⁷

⁷ Canada’s Historic Places Registry.

6.0 REFERENCES

Canada's Historic Places Registry. Historic Place Listing: Government House. URL http://www.historicplaces.ca/rep-reg/affichage-display_e.aspx?Id=2161

diZerega Wall, Diana. 2000. "Twenty Years After: Re-examining Archaeological Collections for Evidence of New York City's Colonial African Past." In *African-American Archaeology Newsletter*. Issue 28. URL <http://www.diaspora.uiuc.edu/A-Anewsletter/newsletter28.html>

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PLATES



Plate 1: 1856 Nova Scotia Half Penny Token before archaeological conservation (left: obverse, right: reverse).



Plate 2: Removal of concrete and fill from north end of moat for initial inspection on 21 November 2006.



Plate 3: Removal of concrete and fill from south end of moat for initial inspection on 21 November 2006.



Plate 4: Mechanical excavation in the moat showing the set up of the mini-excavator (foreground) and conveyor belt (background).



Plate 5: Stone and brick footing or threshold beneath the existing floor on the north side of the kitchen.



Plate 6: Stone drainage feature beneath the existing floor, east of the locker room.



Plate 7: Slate floor tiles beneath the existing floor on the north wall of the locker room.



Plate 8: Wood-lined drain the south moat, looking southeast.



Plate 9: South side of Government House near southeast corner showing previous disturbance and modern fill associated with sanitary sewer service.

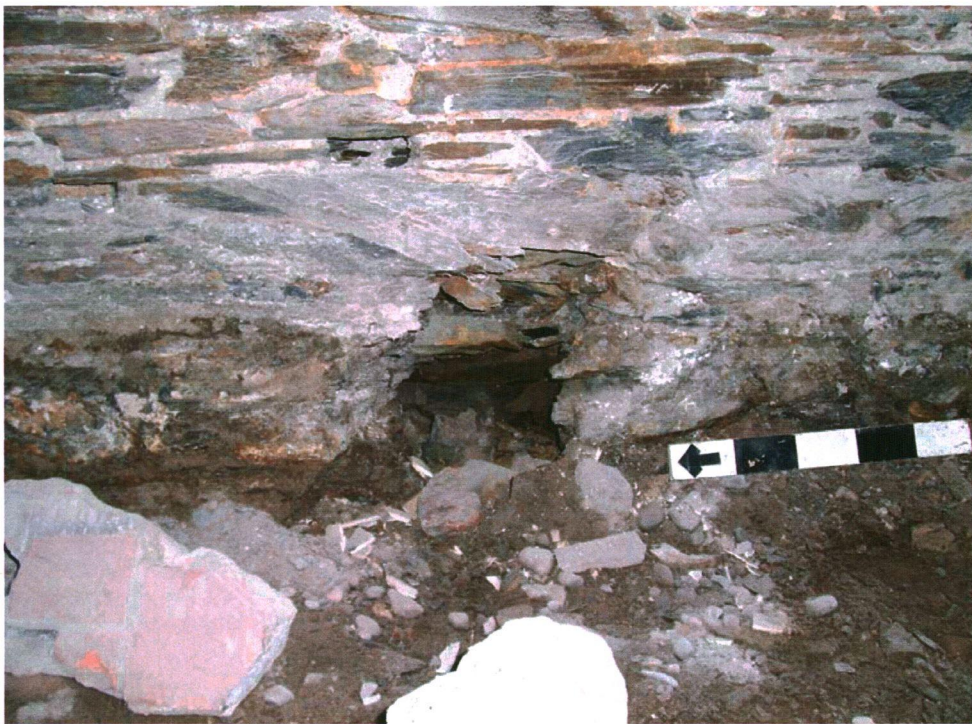


Plate 10: Stone-lined drain beneath the east wall of the Caretaker's Suite, looking east.



Plate 11: Stone-lined drain running east-west through the front-facing storage room, looking east.



Plate 12: Stone-lined drain running east-west through the storage room (horizontal in photo), and intersecting north-south drain at course earthenware pipe junction, looking north.



Plate 13: Curved stone-lined drain in storage room, looking northwest.

**APPENDIX A:
HERITAGE RESEARCH PERMITS**



Nova Scotia Museum
Special Places Protection Act,
R.S.N.S. 1989

Application for
**Heritage
Research Permit**
(Archaeology)

Permit No. **A2006NS76**

(Original becomes Permit when approved
by the Executive Director of the Nova
Scotia Museum)

The undersigned April MacIntyre
of c/o 6519 Oak Street, Halifax, NS B3L 1H6
representing (institution) Davis Archaeological Consultants Limited

hereby applies for a permit under Section 8 of the Special Places Protection Act to carry out archaeological investigations during the period:

from 21 November 2006 to 31 December 2006

at Government House

general location Hollis Street, Halifax

specific location(s) (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.

I certify that I am familiar with the provisions of the Special Places Protection Act of Nova Scotia, and that I will abide by the terms and conditions listed in the Heritage Research Permit Guidelines for the category (check one).

- Category A - Archaeological Reconnaissance
- Category B - Archaeological Research
- Category C - Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment

Signature of applicant April MacIntyre Date 20 November 2006

Approved: Bruce Greenlaw
Executive Director Date 20 November 2006



Nova Scotia Museum
Special Places Protection Act,
R.S.N.S. 1989

Application for
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Research Permit**
(Archaeology)

Permit No. **A2007NS05**

(Original becomes Permit when approved
by the Executive Director of the Nova
Scotia Museum)

The undersigned April MacIntyre
of c/o 6519 Oak Street, Halifax, NS B3L 1H6
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from 02 January 2007 to 31 March 2007

at Government House

general location Hollis Street, Halifax

specific location(s) (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.

I certify that I am familiar with the provisions of the Special Places Protection Act of Nova Scotia, and that I will abide by the terms and conditions listed in the Heritage Research Permit Guidelines for the category (check one).

- Category A - Archaeological Reconnaissance
- Category B - Archaeological Research
- Category C - Archaeological Resource Impact Assessment

Signature of applicant April MacIntyre Date 14 December 2006

Approved: Bill Heine Executive Director Date 19 Dec 2006

**APPENDIX B:
FIELD NOTES**

Field Notes

21 November 2006

12:10 Reconnaissance of property prior to meeting with engineering crew. Front of house – exposed soil in gardens and along the property wall. Brick fragments, flat glass, fragment of dark green bottle glass.

Piece of undecorated white refined earthenware in rear side yard near southeast corner of house. Also one sherd of undecorated pearlware, dark green bottle glass, creamware (several pieces), bottle glass, ceramics, unidentified lead piece in rear side yard near northeast corner of house around a large maple tree.

1:00 Start of meeting. Terry Smith-Lamothe (TPW), Dan McQuinn (JWEL), Peter Adams (TPW), Paul Hebert (architect), etc. South side of moat, visual inspection – concrete laid in c. 1920s. Approximately 1.5 ft. of soil on top of bedrock. Brick came out of excavation. Soil beneath concrete slab appears to be fill.

North moat visual inspection – elevation of bedrock is higher than in south moat. Again, soil appears to be fill, probably deposited when concrete was laid. Soil in both ends of moat consists of medium brown sandy fill with slate and brick fragments. Fragment of burned dark green bottle glass, brick fragments, sandstone fragments.

Interior basement, core drilling visual inspection:

Two areas have been drilled in the locker room north of kitchen. In first area (on north side of kitchen wall), a possible footing of Halifax slate with single course of brick on top, approximately 1 ft. wide, doorway? Dry stone wall visible behind wood plank wall on north side of kitchen.

Second core drill is in room to the east of the locker room, along the north wall of the room. Appears to be a cast iron drain running north-south beneath the floor.

Third core drill is adjacent to north wall of locker room where an elevator shaft is planned. Directly beneath modern floor are slate floor tiles of original floor.

20 December 2006

Watched operation removal of broken concrete only from the moat. Talked to Scott (foreman) and arranged to meet next morning.

21 December 2006

7:30 Watched set up, hoses for compressor, trailer, etc. Concrete has been broken from the north end of the moat to the north side of back entrance. Profile: concrete (8 cm), rubble fill, bricks, etc on sand over gravel, water table 45 cm below bottom of window (northwest corner of moat). Note – cut sandstone slabs (2 cm thick) placed on wall

opposite the house. Cultural material scarce, difficult to distinguish a builder's trench, little color change between fill and native material. Some pockets of sterile. Left 4:35.

22 December 2006

7:30 Crew adding a third unit to the conveyor belt. Worked until 11:00. Crew stopped excavating to clean site for Christmas shutdown.

02 January 2007

Checked in with crew at 7:45. Still setting up after holidays. Returned to the site at 9:00. Monitored until 11:45. Mini backhoe and conveyor system needed to be moved to south side of steps. No need for me to be present for the rest of the day.

03 January 2007

Arrived at 7:30. Crew working in area between basement entrance and stone steps. The only feature encountered was the drain for the roof down spout located in the corner. The drain was fairly modern – a cast iron pipe encased in a wood-framed concrete enclosure. The drain sat on native soil that produced a few ceramics pieces at the interface. The crew was adding a fourth unit to the conveyor belt so I left at 3:00.

04 January 2007

Arrived at 7:30. Left at 11:30. Returned 12:45 to complete MARI form as required by NSM. Left again at 1:45. Crew removing basement doors. No digging other than removal of concrete.

05 January 2007

Arrived at 7:30. Monitored the conveyor belt removal of fill from around the basement entrance on north side. Large excavator used to dig test units on south side of carriage house. 1.50 m by 3.0 m test unit revealed stone/brick footing sitting on dry stone 1.5 m in depth. Large unit 2.5 m by 5 m dug on northeast corner of house to a depth of 2.5 m. All modern fill, pea gravel, 2 inch rock, plastic drain pipes. Third unit 1.5 m by 3.5 m located on north side near west corner of house. Same as above, all modern including landscaping fabric. Interesting point – bedrock slopes to east suggesting only the footing for the house was dug out during original construction. Left site as crew was working on drain area in front of basement entrance. Entire area modern – rebar in concrete. Left at 9:30.

08 January 2007

Arrived at 7:30. Crew working on south side of basement entrance towards the south steps. After I left on Friday, they concentrated on the removal of the modern concrete. The fill remained undisturbed. The fill is mostly modern related to recent construction of drain. No need to monitor. Left at 9:30.

07 February 2007

Arrived at 7:00. Checked on moat. The reported plank appears to be the top of a wood framed drain. This feature was most likely added sometime after the construction of the

moat. The west end has been set in bricks. The drain is 20 cm wide and c. 2.50 m long and cuts diagonally across the moat, southeast by northwest.

Returned to the university to get a camera. The water covering the plank was removed with an industrial Shop-Vac. The plank was cleaned with water from a hose, then photographed. The top plank was removed to reveal the two vertical planks and bottom plank. The drain was partially cleaned to reveal its size (12 cm by 12 cm).

The wooden drain fed into a ceramic pipe which extended beneath the house. The handle of a hoe could be pushed into it to its entire length (c. 2.0 m).

19 February 2007

Scott MacKenzie phoned to say some stonework had been unearthed in the room south of the furnace room (front storage room) just inside the doorway.

Feature is a stone-lined drain running east-west. Begins under the north "turret" and runs eastward. 50 cm wide. Silted up with black organic. Cleaned some of it out to reveal bedrock bottom (59 cm deep). No artifacts visible in organic soil. Constructed of undressed Halifax slate. Large capstones at least 90 cm by 20 cm. North wall is bedrock. South wall is constructed of Halifax slate. Drain is 35 cm out from north wall of the room.

Another drain running perpendicular to the first (north-south) through this room. Much narrower than the first (20 cm wide) and 26 cm deep. Less silt than first drain. Slate capping stone and side stones. Nothing cultural seen inside drain. 70 cm out from west wall of room. Both drains are dry. This second drain connects with a coarse earthenware drain pipe at the north end beneath the entrance into the furnace room.

Both drains are dry and will be filled in for structural stability.

Kitchen floor was removed previously. No artifacts or cultural features seen. Also, floor removed in the adjacent room to the east (laundry room) and in the room at the southeast corner of the house (cold room). Again, nothing of cultural significance seen in either room. Floor in caretaker's suite also removed. Nothing of cultural significance other than a remnant of stone-lined drain running under east wall of the room.

Floor in furnace room has been broken up but not yet removed.

22 February 2007

More of the stone drain running from the front storage room to the storage room in behind (to the east). Took several photos of the drain. Drain is not as heavily silted as in the room to the west. Some dimensions and construction. Drain enters this room beneath the wall opening at the north end between the two storage rooms, then curves southward and goes out under the south wall of this second storage room. Does not appear in the room in the south, however.

02 March 2007

Second curved drain in the lounge at the southeast end of the house. Drain enters the room approximately 1 m from the doorway on the north wall and curves around the front of the fireplace to exit the room on the west wall immediately adjacent to the doorway. Does not appear in the rooms to the north or west.

Outside the house, at the southeast corner, a trench approximately 1.75 metres wide has been excavated around the corner. Area has been previously disturbed with very little natural soil at the surface, just north of the corner. Remainder is gravel fill on top of bedrock, which has been excavated into approximately 0.80 m deep. Catch basin approximately 1.8 metres south of the southeast corner.

Inside, we collected several bags of artifacts that were picked up by the construction workers during excavation inside the basement.

**APPENDIX C:
MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE INVENTORY FORM**

MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

Date Form Filled Out
(YYYY/MM/DD)
2007/01/04

NB NS PEI

A. SITE NAME, LOCATION AND ACCESS

A1 SUGGESTED SITE NAME Government House

A2 TEMPORARY SITE NUMBER A2007NS05-01

A3 PERMIT/LICENSE NUMBER A2006NS76, A2007NS05

A4 PERMIT/LICENSE TYPE Category C

A5 WHEN DID YOU GATHER THE INFORMATION FOR THIS REPORT ?
2006/11/21 through 2007/01/04

A6 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND/OR RESOURCES:

	Submitted	Available
Video Footage	_____	_____
Maps / Plans	_____■_____	_____
Still Photos	_____■_____	_____
Drawings	_____	_____
Archival Information	_____	_____
Artifacts	_____	_____
Articles	_____	_____
Contacts	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____

A7 ACTIVITY

- a) Surface collecting _____
- b) Surface recording _____■_____
- c) Site Revisit _____
- b) Subsurface testing _____
- c) Extensive excavation _____
- d) Monitoring _____■_____
- e) Surveillance _____

A8 COUNTY Halifax County



A9 LOCATION DESCRIPTION

In metropolitan Halifax, bounded by Hollis Street on the east, Bishop's Row on the south, Barrington Street on the west, and St. Matthew's Church on the north. 1451 Barrington Street.

A10 LOCATION ACCESS

From the intersection of Inglis and Barrington Streets in downtown Halifax, travel northward along Barrington Street approximately 0.8 kilometres to the south driveway entrance into the Government House property.

A11 SITE LOCATION MAP NUMBER 11D12 (Halifax) (Attach photocopied section of NTS 1:50000 scale map and indicate the site location. Make sure that the map number is indicated. eg. 21H16).

Borden No. BdCv-52

A12 SITE ACCESS MAP NUMBER 11D12 (Halifax) (Attach photocopied section of a larger scale map and show your access route to the site location. Make sure that the map number and scale is indicated) Scale: 1:300 000

A13 SITE POSITION

UTM (eg. 20TKE 1447 5362) Zone 20T E 454658 N 4943477
Latitude 44 38 593 N Longitude 63 34 305 W

A14 METHOD(S) OF DETERMINING LOCATION and/or position.

Projection UTM Datum NAD83
GPS estimated error _____ m _____ Total Station _____
Differential GPS _____ Estimate from description _____
Map (scale =1: 5 000) _____
Aerial Photo (scale =1: _____) _____ Other (please specify) _____

A15 SITE ELEVATION

Elevation 15 m. (A.S.L.) to 25 m. (A.S.L.)

A16 METHOD(S) OF DETERMINING ELEVATION

Projection UTM Datum NAD83
GPS _____ Total Station _____
Differential GPS _____ Geodetic Marker (# _____) _____
Map (scale =1: 5 000) _____ Estimate from description _____
Aerial Photo (scale =1: _____) _____
Other (please specify) _____

A17 OTHER MAP(S) Property Survey Map (see attached site plan, section E)

A18 AERIAL PHOTO NUMBER(S) _____

A19 PROPERTY IDENTIFIER NUMBER(S) 76265

A20 PROPERTY TYPE Private _____ Federal Crown _____ Provincial Crown First Nation Land _____ Unknown _____

A21 NEAREST FIRST NATION COMMUNITY (if applicable) N/A

Contacted ? Yes _____ No _____

B. SITE ENVIRONMENT

B1 NATURAL REGION # (Provincial) _____ NATURAL REGION # (Federal) _____

B2 HABITAT DESCRIPTION (please check those appropriate)

Offshore

1.1 Open Water _____
1.2 Benthic _____

Coastal

2.1 Rocky Shore _____
2.2 Boulder/Cobble Shore _____
2.3 Sandy Shore _____
2.4 Mud Flat _____
2.5 Tidal Marsh _____
2.6 Dune System _____

Terrestrial Unforested

5.1 Barren _____
5.2 Oldfield _____
5.3 Cliff and Bank _____
5.4 Talus Slope _____
5.5 Cave _____

Freshwater

3.1 Open-Water Lotic (Rivers and Streams) _____
3.2 Open-Water Lentic (Lakes and Ponds) _____
3.3 Bottom Lotic (Rivers and Streams) _____
3.4 Bottom Lentic (Lakes and Ponds) _____
3.5 Water's Edge Lotic (Rivers and Streams) _____
3.6 Water's Edge Lentic (Lakes and Ponds) _____

Freshwater Wetland

4.1 Bog _____
4.2 Fen _____
4.3 Swamp _____
4.4 Freshwater Marsh (Inland) _____

Forests

6.1 Hardwood Forest _____
6.2 Softwood Forest _____
6.3 Mixedwood Forest _____

Additional Habitat Description Urban environment near the shore of Halifax Harbour.

C. SITE DESCRIPTION

C1 Period

Palaeo-Indian (> 9000 BP)	___	Contact (1500 - 1604)	___
Early/Middle Archaic (9000 - 6000 BP)	___	Colonial (1604 - 1867)	■
Late Archaic (6000 - 3000 BP)	___	Early Post-Confederation (1867 to 1950)	■
Maritime Woodland (3000 - 500 BP)	___	Other	_____

Basis of identification

Built between 1799 and 1805 and continually occupied by Lt. Gov. up until 2006 when it was evacuated for renovations.

C2 TRADITION

Palaeo-Indian	___	Middle/Late Woodland	___	Jamaican Maroon	■
Early/Middle Maritime Archaic	___	Maliseet	___	Planter	___
Laurentian Archaic	___	Mi'kmaq	___	Loyalist	___
Shield Archaic	___	Passamaquody	___	Black Loyalist	___
Late Maritime Archaic	___	British	■	German	___
Susquehanna	___	French	___	Irish	___
Early Maritime Woodland	___	Acadian	___	Unspecified	___
Other	___	Scottish	___		
	Canadian		_____		

C6 SITE FUNCTION

Aeroplane	___	General Activity	___	Religious/Sacred	___
Agricultural	___	Hunting & Gathering	___	Residence	■
Commercial	___	Manufacturing	___	Settlement	___
Construction	___	Military	___	Transportation	___
Extractive	___	Mining	___	Undetermined	___
Fishing	___	Miscellaneous	___	Vessel	___
Forestry	___	Other	_____		

C7 GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION

Site consists of a sandstone residence (standing) with a moat surrounding the north, west, and east sides of the building. Also a concrete carriage house on the north boundary of the property (built in late 19th century). Gardens surrounding the house on all sides. Main entrance on Barrington Street, original facade on Hollis Street. Stone wall surrounding property (rebuilt several times). Plaque erected by Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada at the southwest corner of the property.

C8 OBSERVED SITE DIMENSIONS Length 21 m Width 30.5 m

C9 ESTIMATED SITE DIMENSIONS Length 21 m Width 30.5 m

C10 DISTANCE TO WATER 150 m

C11 ORIENTATION TO WATER Perpendicular ___ Parallel ■ Not applicable ___

C12 DESTRUCTIVE AGENTS

	High		Medium		Low	
	Existing	Future	Existing	Future	Existing	Future
a Natural						
Marine Erosion	---	---	---	---	---	---
Lacustrine Erosion	---	---	---	---	---	---
Vegetation Growth	---	---	---	---	■	---
Bioturbation	---	---	---	---	---	---
b Cultural						
Agriculture	---	---	---	---	---	---
Construction	---	---	■	---	---	---
Transportation	---	---	---	---	---	---
Forestry	---	---	---	---	---	---
Mining/Quarrying	---	---	---	---	---	---
Dam/reservoir	---	---	---	---	---	---
Vandalism	---	---	---	---	---	---
Site Visitation	---	---	---	---	---	---
Military	---	---	---	---	---	---
Other	---	---	---	---	---	---

BASIS OF ASSESSMENT

Current renovations to the interior of the house including removal and replacement of the basement floor, excavation for drainage inside the moat, and landscaping around the perimeter. Tree growth and gardening around the grounds.

D REPORTER INFORMATION

D1 REPORTER'S NAME April MacIntyre

D2 MAILING ADDRESS 109 John Stewart Drive, Cole Harbour, NS D3 POSTAL CODE B2W 4J7

D4 PHONE (H) (902) 422-0801 D5 PHONE (W) (902) 402-4441

D6 FAX (902) 444-2854 D7 E-MAIL darch@eastlink.ca

D8 AFFILIATION Davis Archaeological Consultants Limited

D9 HOW DID YOU FIND THE SITE?

Chance Find Map Or Chart Field Survey Historical Research Local Contacts Existing Site Records

Comments

Known registered historic site.

D10 CONTACT'S NAME _____

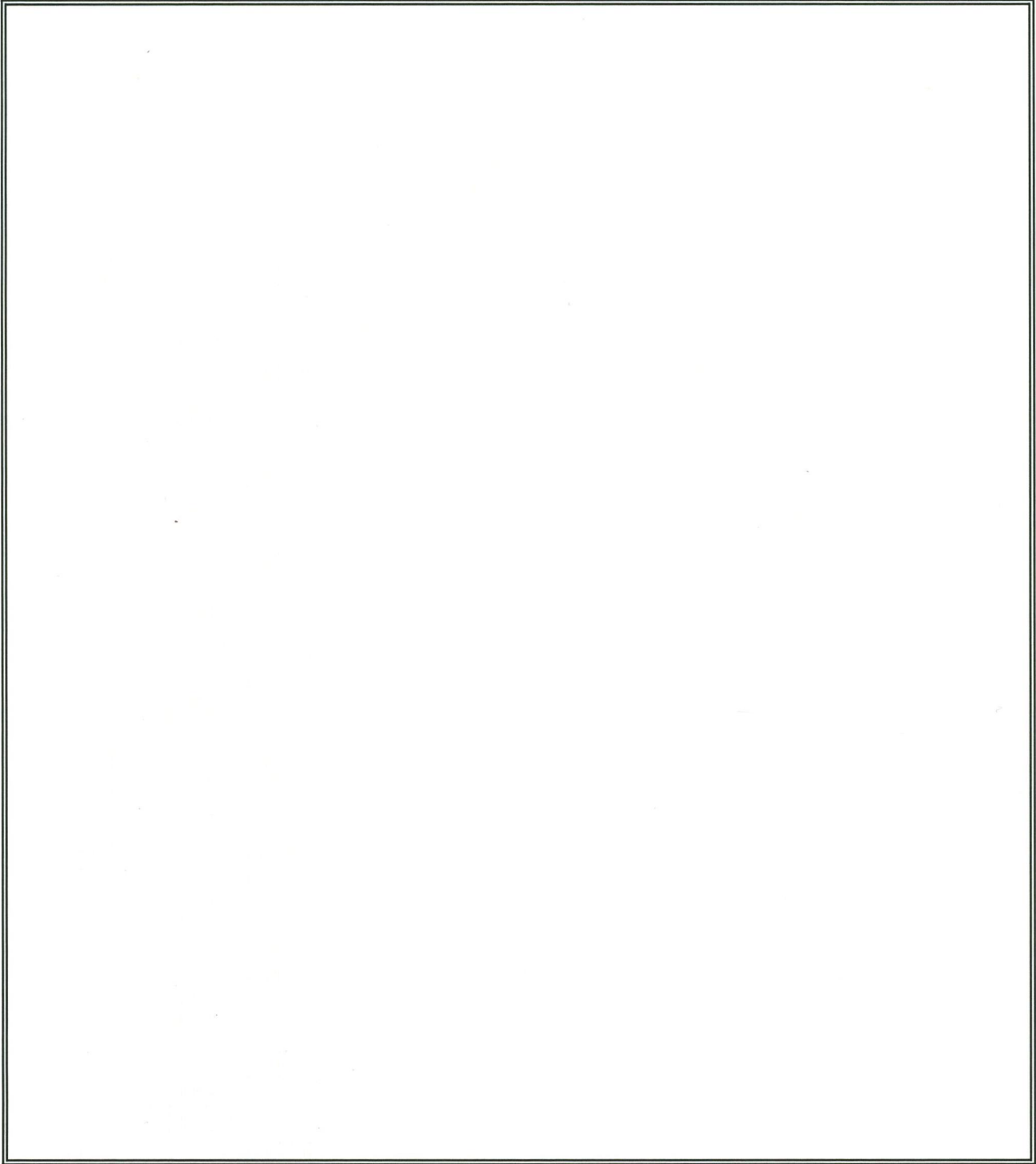
D11 MAILING ADDRESS _____






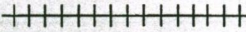
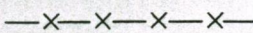


D12 POSTAL CODE _____

D13 PHONE (H) _____ D14 PHONE (W) _____

E SITE PLAN

Please provide a drawing or sketch of the site, indicating prominent features, the orientation of the site and overall dimension, including artifact scatter fields. Relate the location of features in the Site Plan with features identified in the Site Access Map. Note the direction of true North and the scale of the plan.



- Extent of Site/Étendue du Site 
- Building/Édifice 
- Foundation/Fondation 
- Road/Chemin 
- Trail/Sentir 
- Railway/Voie Ferrée 
- Fence/Cloture 
- River-Creek/Rivière-Ruisseau 
- Steep Rise/Pente Abrupte 

1:50,000 Map No./Carte No. _____

True/Vrai []

Magnetic/Magnetique []

Date _____

Scale/Echelle 1cm=____m.

F. REMARKS

Sherds of late eighteenth/early nineteenth century ceramics (creamware, pearlware) seen on surface near southeast corner of the house resulting from subsurface disturbance in this area prior to archaeological monitoring. Portion of cut stone gateway also visible in original entrance to facade on Hollis Street was reported to the Nova Scotia Museum by Dept. of Transportation and Public Works and the feature recorded.

Moat on north, west, and south sides of house have been cleaned out and in-filled with soil, possibly from other part of the property or from adjacent properties. Approximately 1.5 feet of fill on top of bedrock, poorly drained. Fill consists mainly of Halifax slate and brick fragments. Late nineteenth/early twentieth century glass and ceramics recovered from fill. Base of moat was capped with concrete in 1920s.

Inside the basement, small areas (up to 2 feet square in area) have been removed from the floor. A drainage feature near east wall, centre of building was visible as well as a possible threshold for a doorway in the room adjacent to (on the north side of) the kitchen. In the same room, opposite to this, on the north wall is a slate paved floor beneath the modern floor. This area is slated for an elevator shaft.

