


**Heritage Advisory Committee**  
**June 22, 2011**

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Heritage Advisory Committee

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
For Paul Dunphy, Director of Community Development

**DATE:** May 24, 2011

**SUBJECT:** **Case H00357 - Application to consider 5381 Spring Garden Road,  
Halifax as a Municipally Registered Heritage Property**

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**ORIGIN**

A request by the Heritage Advisory Committee to consider 5381 Spring Garden Road, the Halifax Main Branch Library, in downtown Halifax, as a municipally registered heritage property.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that should 5381 Spring Garden Road, Halifax score more than 50 points, the Heritage Advisory Committee recommend that Regional Council:

1. Set a date for a heritage hearing to consider the application; and
  2. Approve the registration of this property, as shown on Map 1, under the HRM Heritage Property Program.
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## **BACKGROUND**

With a new public library being planned at the corners of Queen and Spring Garden Roads the long term plan for the existing Memorial Library building is still uncertain. Members of the Heritage Advisory Committee raised concerns over its long term use and retention as a significant heritage resource to the Halifax Regional Municipality. This is due in part to the heritage values associated with the building: its architectural style, its commemorative status as a war memorial, and the historical use as a cemetery for the poor.

Under the HRM Heritage Property Program, all applications for new heritage registrations are reviewed by the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC). To provide a basis for the review, a Historical Research Report (Attachment A) is developed to assist the HAC when scoring the building using "*The Evaluation Criteria for Registration of Heritage Buildings in Halifax Regional Municipality*" (Attachment B).

Should the building score more than 50 points, a positive recommendation will be forwarded to Regional Council, and a notice of this recommendation will be provided to the property owner(s) at least thirty (30) days prior to its registration. Normally, the hearing provides an opportunity for the owner(s) of the property to be heard before Council votes on the recommendation, however in this case HRM is the owner of the property.

## **DISCUSSION**

The building, located at 5381 Spring Garden Road, was originally called the Halifax Memorial Library. It was decided that the library would make an excellent memorial to all those who died during the First and Second World Wars. The site, corners of Spring Garden and Grafton Streets, was previously known as Grafton Park. This park is where the poor were buried during the late 1700s to the mid-1800s.

The building was constructed in the "Modern Classical Style" which developed after the Second World War when the style of commercial and government buildings were changing. For nearly 60 years the citizens of Halifax talked about erecting a new library, and in 1951 it was completed. The style chosen represents "a new approach to Library science in this part of the country because it embodies not only all the elements of a first class local library but also space and facilities for expansion to full co-operation in the provincial governments regional library scheme." The library is also identified as a memorial building, and has "Halifax Memorial Library" incised in stone lettering across the top of the building and the cornerstone stipulating that it was "laid under the auspices of the Halifax Branches of the Canadian Legion on Nov. 11, 1949." Additionally, a number of items symbolic of the era are visible within the Library as well as the statue of Winston Churchill erected in 1979 in Grafton Park "reinforces its symbolic value as a war memorial."

The Library building is surrounded by other municipally and provincially registered heritage buildings such as: The St. Mary's Basilica, The Old Burying Grounds, the Provincial Court House, St. David's Presbyterian Church, St. Mary's Boys and Girls School buildings and Royal

Artillery Park. The addition of this building to the HRM Registry of Heritage Buildings will create a denser cluster of registered buildings around Spring Garden and Grafton Streets.

### **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

The HRM costs associated with processing this application can be accommodated within the 2011/12 operating budget for C310 Planning & Applications.

### **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

There is no community engagement required for municipal heritage registration requests.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Regional Council may approve the heritage registration of 5381 Spring Garden Road, Halifax as recommended.
2. Regional Council may choose not to hold a heritage hearing to consider the heritage registration application for 5381 Spring Garden Road, Halifax.
3. Regional Council may refuse the request for heritage registration, after holding a heritage hearing, for 5381 Spring Garden Road.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Map 1: Location Map – 5381 Spring Garden Road, Halifax

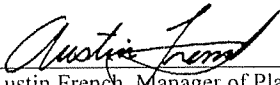
Attachment A: Historical Research for 5381 Spring Garden Rd, Halifax

Attachment B: The Evaluation Criteria for Registration of Heritage Buildings in Halifax  
Regional Municipality

Attachment C: Photographs of 5381 Spring Garden Rd, Halifax

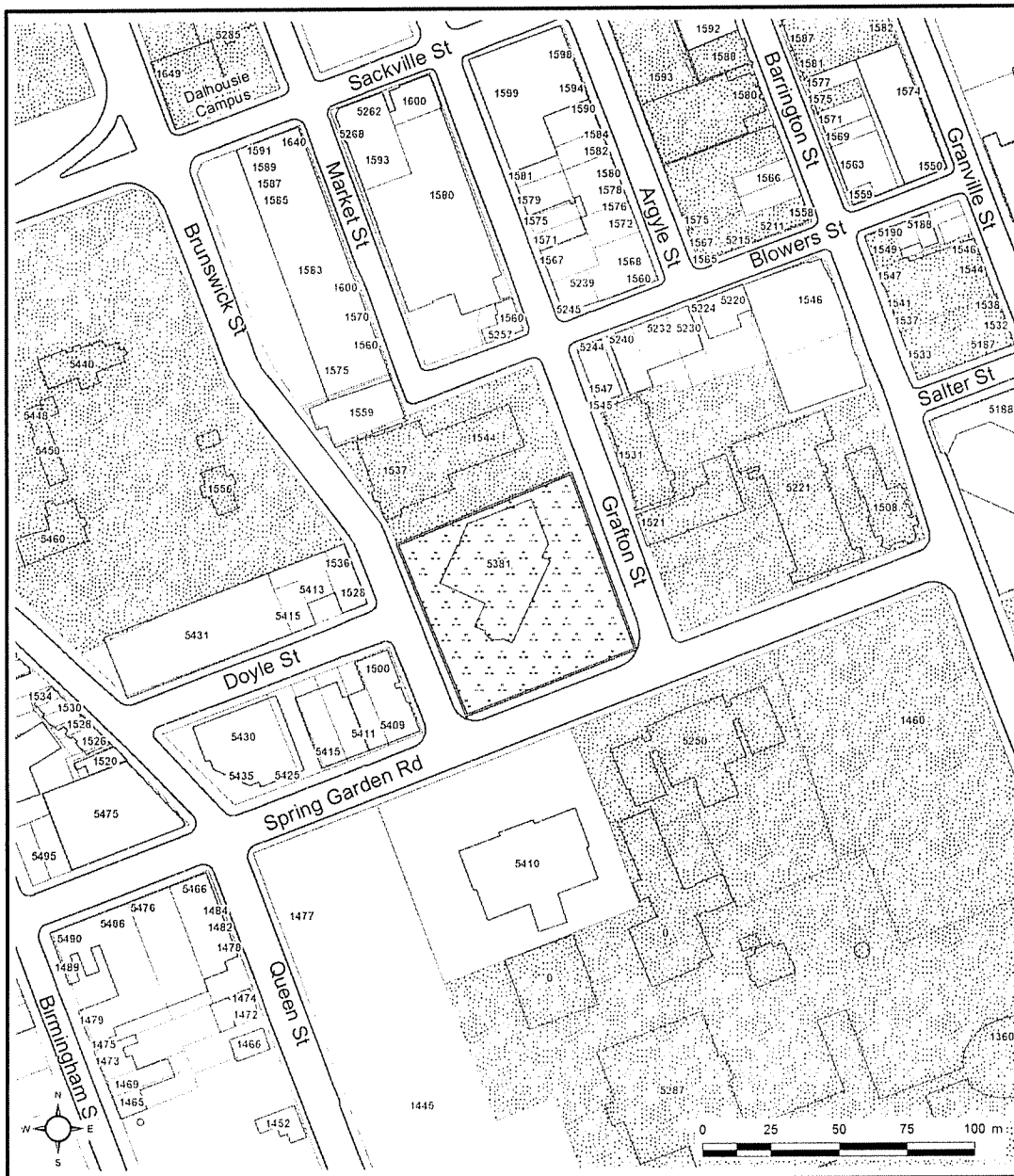
A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by : Maggie Holm, Heritage Planner, 490-4419

Report Approved by:   
Austin French, Manager of Planning Services, 490-6717



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# Map 1: Location Map



**Map 1 - Location Map**

**5381 Spring Garden Road  
Halifax, Nova Scotia**

-  Subject Property
-  Registered Heritage Property

**HALIFAX**  
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
HERITAGE AND DESIGN SERVICES

HRM does not guarantee the accuracy  
of any representation on this plan

24 May 2011

Case H00357

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**Attachment A**

**An Historical Report on:**

Spring Garden Road Memorial Public Library;

Halifax Main Branch Library

(Formerly: Halifax Memorial Library)

5381 Spring Garden Road, Halifax, NS

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**Prepared for:** Maggie Holm, Heritage Officer/Planner - Halifax Regional Municipality

**Prepared by:** Alfreda Withrow - Research Consultant

**Date:** May 16, 2011

## **Research criteria conducted on the Spring Garden Road Halifax Main Branch Library, formerly called the Halifax Memorial Library:**

### **1) Age: Construction began in 1949 and library was completed in 1951**

The building, located at 5381 Spring Garden Road, was originally called the Halifax Memorial Library. A committee of twelve was formed in 1945 to develop a public library that would be available for all citizens of Halifax. A decision was made by this committee to produce a library that would be a memorial to those who died during the First and Second World Wars. The site chosen to construct the building is known as Grafton Park. This park is where paupers were buried during the late 1700s to the mid-1800s. According to the 1878 Hopkins Atlas map, only an "Engine House" is shown to be located on this property; however the 1895 GOAD Insurance plan of Halifax lists the property as a "Public Park" along with the engine house.

On November 12, 1951 the new library was opened to the public and is now called the "Spring Garden Road Memorial Park Library." It is a popular place for people to sit; enjoying the sun, eating lunch or meeting friends. It is owned and operated by the municipal authority and provides free library service to the residents and taxpayers of Halifax. Ownership of the land has been in the hands of the City of Halifax since 1882 but the deed was registered in 1884 in Grant Book #5, Page 54. It states that the City was to receive "a lot of land containing one and one quarter acres, situated, lying and being in the County of Halifax..." and the City was to pay one peppercorn as rent for the lands described in the deed on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March each year.

### **2) Historical or Architectural Importance:**

- A) A number of public officials played a historical role in connection to the development of the Memorial Library, including the following three Mayors:

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- **Mayor John Edward Lloyd** was the Chairman of the Committee formed in 1945 to originally research the idea of producing the library and played a major role in obtaining the financing from various sources. Lloyd was born in Aldershot, England in 1908 and came to Canada as a young child. He was educated in the public schools in Halifax. After graduating from high school he attended the Maritime Business College and eventually became a chartered accountant, admitted to the Nova Scotia Institute of Chartered Accountants in 1931. From 1931 to 1933 he was the corporation assessor for the Federal

Income Tax Department and then for the next five years established a private accounting and auditing practice. From 1938 to 1943 Mayor Lloyd was the comptroller for the Oland and Keith Breweries. He served as an Alderman for the City of Halifax before being elected the Mayor of Halifax in 1943 to 1944 and returned once again in 1961.

During his time on City Council, Mr. Lloyd was instrumental in advocating the "city manager system." He was also involved in the development of the Angus L. Macdonald Bridge and once completed he served on the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission. He was a strong supporter of better housing for those less fortunate. From 1940-1961 he lectured on taxation and accounting at Dalhousie Law School and was an associate professor of commerce at the university. Mr. Lloyd was a past president of the Nova Scotia Institute of Chartered Accountants. In 1945, he served as special assistant to the director of finance of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in Washington, DC.

Mr. Lloyd was defeated the first time he ran as a Liberal candidate for Parliament in 1962 but won on his second try in the 1963 election. He has been described as "one of the most valuable members of the Liberal team, and his experience and knowledge of economics were of great importance to parliament. He was appointed to four federal government committees, finance, trade and economic affairs, housing, urban development and public works, and the public accounts committee."

- **Mayor John Edward (Gee) Ahern** was the one chosen to turn the first sod when the construction of the library began on April 21, 1949. J. E. (Gee) Ahern was a former newspaperman and hockey star when he was elected as an Alderman in Ward Three on April 25, 1940. On April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1946 Deputy Mayor Ahern was elected Mayor for a year by a slim margin and once again in 1947. In April 1952 he asked the residents of Halifax to support him once more in his bid to be elected Mayor and felt that what he had accomplished in the past would help him to achieve that goal. Mr. Ahern stated that he gave the citizens of Halifax lower business tax rates, provided children with better schools and recreational facilities, made Halifax a better City to live in, work and raise a family. He provided better streets and lighting. He ended his term as Mayor with a surplus of more than \$100,000.00 and was rated as one of the best Mayors in Canada. (See Appendix II)

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- **Mayor Gordon S. Kinley** laid the cornerstone for the library on November 11, 1949. Kinley was a prominent Halifax druggist and President of the Halifax Drug Company. He entered civic politics as an Alderman from 1938 to 1942 and then served three terms as Mayor of Halifax from 1949 until 1951.

He was born in Lunenburg, NS and was the son of Captain James F. Kinley. Following graduation from public school in Lunenburg Gordon Kinley studied pharmacy with his brother who became Senator J. J. Kinley. He moved to Halifax as a certified druggist and



established a business in 1912 on Barrington Street. In 1946 he moved his drugstore to Almon and Windsor Streets. He was elected as President of the NS Pharmaceutical Society.

During the First World War he served with the first battalion of Halifax Rifles and later becoming commanding officer with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. On May 1, 1950 Mayor Kinley was sworn into office and re-elected to serve another one year term in 1951. It was during his term as Mayor that a final decision was made to proceed with establishing the position of Council-Manager form of civic government. Also during his term as Mayor the Armdale Rotary (now Roundabout) plan had previously been "generally approved" by civic, county and provincial officials. City access continued to be a priority for Halifax citizens. Mayor Kinley felt that the decision to construct a bridge between Halifax and Dartmouth was important as an exit for the population in case of an emergency which was completed in 1955 and named the Angus L. Macdonald Bridge. It was also during his time in office that a decision was being considered allowing any resident of Halifax, over the age of 21, to be able to vote in a civic election. Until that time only taxpayers were allowed to vote. Previously this included only those who paid poll, household and real property tax and it excluded wives of taxpayers who were not allow to vote until this new legislation was passed. Sadly Mr. Kinley passed away on August 26, 1967.

A plaque that was placed just inside the library entrance was designed by Alderman A. H. MacMillan and bronzed by William Collings & Sons. The inscription on the plaque states: "In memory of those who gave their lives in defence of their country 1914-1918 and 1939-1945, for their faith, for their courage, for their sacrifices, we will remember them."

## 2) Representative of the era:

B) The library is representative of the era. The building was constructed in the "Modern Classical Style" which was a new style produced after the Second World War when the style of commercial and government buildings were changing. For nearly 60 years the citizens of Halifax talked about erecting a new library. Finally in 1951 it was completed. The style chosen represents "a new approach to Library science in this part of the country because it embodies not only all the elements of a first class local library but also space and facilities for expansion to full co-operation in the provincial governments regional library scheme." The library can definitely be identified as a memorial with "Halifax Memorial Library" incised in stone lettering across the top of the building and the cornerstone stipulating that it was "laid under the auspices of the Halifax Branches of the Canadian Legion on Nov. 11, 1949." A number of items symbolic of the era are visible within the Library as well as the statue of Winston Churchill erected in 1979 in Grafton Park "reinforces its symbolic value as a war memorial."

### 3) Significance of Architect/Builder:

The structure was erected by Standard Construction Co. Ltd. from architectural plans designed by architect, Leslie Fairn. Mr. Fairn's long career as an architect has earned him the title of "dean of modern Nova Scotia architects."

- Leslie Raymond Fairn was born in Waterville, Kings County to W. H. and Laura (Lyon) Fairn. He studied industrial arts in Boston and trained in architecture with Peabody & Storm, also in Boston. In 1896 he was listed as a draftsman in Bridgetown, NS. He then apprenticed with a local architect, Edward Elliott, in Halifax around 1897. During the time he was a student he also spent his summers working on construction sites for Rhodes, Curry Co. He returned to Nova Scotia and was appointed principal of the Manual Training Department of Horton Academy in Wolfville, from 1901 to 1904. For the next few years he advertised in the *Maritime Gazetteer* offering his services as an architect. In 1907 Fairn became a charter member of the newly formed Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. During the first twenty years of Fairn's practice he mainly designed residential buildings and then in 1923 he was chosen to design the new administration building for Acadia University. Fairn worked in Aylesford, NS and joined the Council of Maritime Provinces of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. He moved to Wolfville, NS after the incorporation of the Nova Scotia Association of Architects in 1932. During the next twenty years of his practice, Fairn emerged as one of the most prominent architects in Atlantic Provinces.

In 1946 when he was seventy years old, Fairn opened a second office in Halifax on Argyle Street. His new firm, L. R. Fairn & Associates, was managed by his son Laird L. Fairn and they handled large contracts at home and in other Provinces. This firm was dissolved in 1979 but they were responsible for designing numerous buildings including churches, garages, courthouses as well as the Memorial Halifax Library to name a few. These structures can be seen throughout Nova Scotia and other parts of the Maritimes, as well as such places as Florida. Many of the structures were designed in the various styles that were quite popular at this time. He would often link styles together such as the Classical Revival for his public buildings and adding the Georgian tradition of the Maritimes. (See Appendix I)

Mr. Fairn has been described as a gentleman farmer with a courteous relaxed manner. He played a prominent role in the architectural associations. He became President of the Nova Scotia Architectural Association in 1936 and 1937; elected a fellow in 1939 and vice-president in 1947 and once again in 1951. Recognition as an architect was bestowed upon him in 1951 when he was elected a fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of the Arts in London (England) and again in 1968 when Acadia University, in Wolfville, NS

“conferred on him an honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Laws, a distinction given only to those who had become legends in their profession in their own time.”

Fairn retired in Wolfville, NS and served as the town’s councillor and owned a farm, several commercial properties as well as his family home on Main Street. He died in Wolfville in August 1971, aged 96 years old.

#### 4) **Architectural Merit:**

##### A) Construction type of building technology:

The library was constructed of masonry and reinforced concrete and steel with limestone cladding. It is “symmetrically designed with a grand, central entrance with substantial steps; along with flanking window bays separated and defined by wide fluted pilasters. The windows in each of the bays are separated by aluminum spandrels defining the second and third floor levels and this pattern is repeated with variations around building.” Two semi-circular bays are located at each end of the building which “provide a simple classical allusion and softens the form.” The composition is capped by a wide plain frieze ornamented with simple medallions and ribbed cresting. The foundation is finished in black granite. The library was originally designed in a “T-shaped footprint” with three levels and is located diagonally facing Grafton Park with the front entrance facing the corner of Grafton Street and Spring Garden Road.

Over the years very few changes have been made to the original library building. Some of the original “multi-paned sash windows have been replaced with inappropriate awning windows but many original windows remain.” The multi-paned windows originally located above the entrance have been replaced with a modern style window. The second floor windows in the semi-circular bays are the original six over six sashes but the first floor windows have been replaced by modern awning windows. Also the original brass doors were removed long ago because they were too heavy for some patrons to open and they were replaced with plain aluminum doors.

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##### B) Style:

The Library was built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century “Modern Classic Style.” Multi-storey structures were being built with reinforced concrete which became fashionable for “corporate headquarters, luxury apartments, city halls, large hotels and sophisticated residences.” Leslie Fairn is said to have designed the Memorial Library based on the Elsie Perrin Memorial Library constructed in London, Ontario in 1939. “It is of contemporary

architecture strongly influenced by classic design.” The modern classical style is usually flat-roofed with very little decorative designs. The Library has over its main entrance the City’s coat of arms carved in stone. The entrance has a wide cement concourse with steps all around.

When the library opened its’ doors in 1951, it was written in the newspaper that the Memorial Library is of “contemporary architecture strongly influenced by classic design. It is this merging of the modern with the traditional that gives this building its distinctive character and places it in the Modern Classic style that characterizes early twentieth century Canadian institutional architecture.”

#### 5) **Architectural Integrity:**

It was during 1970 to 1971, “a feasibility study was undertaken by the architectural firm of Duffus, Romans, Kundzins & Rounsefell to determine if the present building could be redesigned to permit a more functional use of space.” Tenders were called to build an extension and to renovate the building, with the work to be completed by the end of 1974. The firm, Duffus Romans Kundzins Rounsefell Ltd. was also chosen to design the addition to the Library that fit in with the original classical design produced by Leslie Fairn. D. C. Menchions Construction Ltd. was chosen as the general contractor.

This architectural firm was established in 1949, in Halifax, and began as a partnership between Allan Duffus and Henry Romans. Since that time the firm has become one of the major architectural firms within the Atlantic Provinces who have completed numerous works that involved restoring landmarks in the City of Halifax’s core. Their projects include a number of institutional, commercial, industrial and residential fields. This includes the Izaak Walton Killam Hospital for Children (1970), Library at Kings College (1991), the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (1958, 1968,1977), Alderney Gate Civic Centre (1990), andValley Regional Hospital (1992) to name a few. One of the firm’s more prominent historical restorative works, that they were responsible for, is the Historic Properties, located on the Halifax Waterfront. “This restoration and development has become the cornerstone of the Halifax waterfront and contains some of the finest historic buildings in Halifax. This development houses a mixture of commercial, retail and university spaces ensuring both economic viability as well as the vibrant life of the downtown.”

This firm’s projects have received a number of design awards, including an Award of Excellence for Historic Properties from the Canadian Architects Yearbook in 1972 and the first City of Halifax Design Award for King’s College Library in 1992. One of the firms’

owners, Allan Duffus, was elected a fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada in 1956 and served as dean of the College of Fellows 1969-1972 and President 1973 to 1974.

The extensions, designed by this firm, are located on the north side and the rear of the Library. The addition to the north side of the original structure is styled in two sections. The front section, facing Grafton Street, "is a single storey extension of the original building's basement level and enables the semi-circular bay on the end to remain in prominence." The rear section faces Brunswick Street and is tucked in by the original building and is the same height as the original and separated from it by a slightly inset connecting bay. "Visual continuity is established by a plain concrete "frieze" that caps the building and extends the lines of the limestone frieze on the original building." The addition is different from the original design because it is "largely a windowless box clad and entirely in ribbed concrete." Although the Library has been added to and altered to some extent on both extensions of the building "it has substantially retained its character and defining elements and historic integrity."

#### **6) Relationship to Surrounding Area:**

This Library does stand out as an excellent addition to the Spring Garden Road area. It is surrounded by historical buildings with St. David's Presbyterian Church, the Provincial Courthouse, St. Mary's Basilica and St. Paul's Old Burying Grounds, to name a few within the immediate area. However, the fact that the structure was erected within a cemetery that was known as the "Pauper's burial grounds" makes Grafton Park historically significant.

### **GRAFTON PARK:**

#### **HISTORICAL NOTES REGARDING GRAFTON PARK:**

The land on which the Memorial Library was constructed has been known as Grafton Park for over two hundred years or more. Prior to the library being erected in the Park it was where 'paupers' were interred for many years. According to Dr. Louis Collins, who wrote in his book, *In Halifax Town*, "Originally, in the early days of settlement, the site of a Poor Asylum and a pauper's burying ground was just inside the southern palisade, because of the location, as various excavations are carried out over the years, the skulls and bones of some earlier citizens' have on occasion been disinterred." He also states that, "The library itself was to be set back far enough to the north to preserve a traditional diagonal walk that had let citizens for years to walk to and fro through

Grafton Park from Grafton Street to the intersection of Brunswick and Spring Garden Road.” Various historical maps, showing this part of Halifax, indicate that this was a park with walkways as early as 1895 or earlier.

**(A) Age of Grafton Park:**

From an article written on the Poor House Cemetery and located on file at the Halifax Memorial Library, there is a historical note stating that the parishioners of St. Paul’s Church, in the early 1760s, were asked to help pay for “fencing in the new burying ground situated on the north side of Spring Garden Road and West of Grafton St. (now known as Grafton park).” It also claims that this cemetery was created in “response to attacks from ‘Indians’ who made a funeral procession outside the palisades a treacherous feat.”

Also in the book, *Glimpses of Halifax*, written by Dr. Phyllis Blakeley, she writes the following: “In the south end of the city the Poor House Cemetery opposite the Court House in Spring Garden Road had been converted into Grafton Park. In this cemetery were buried Hessians and British soldiers from regiments like the 84<sup>th</sup> who died of the plague during the American Revolution as well as paupers.” Apparently, at one point, when bodies were being taken to this site for burial, to lie in one long trench, due to the lack of coffins, one soldier had recovered. He was found sitting by his dead comrades until the next cart load returned the next morning. If these soldiers were buried in this Park, this indicates that the burial grounds have been in use as early as the late 1770s.

In an article written by Sarah Baxter Emsley in “Worship and Special Events- From St. Paul’s in Grande Parade,” she states that, “Around 1918, twenty feet of cemetery was paved when Spring Garden Road was widened and all the graves of the New Burying Ground (used from 1760 – 1883 and located at the corner of Spring Garden Road and Grafton Street) disappeared beneath Grafton Park and later the Halifax Memorial Library.”

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Also, written in the *Nova Scotian*, on Oct. 8, 1988, it states that the title for the Old Burying Ground and the Poorhouse Burying Ground was granted to St. Paul’s Church and it claims that the Poorhouse was referred to as the “newer” cemetery.

(B) **Historical Significance of the Park:**

Sadly very little is known about those who were buried over time in the pauper's cemetery but there is one gentleman who has left a lasting memory. Philippe-Aubert-de-Gaspé was born in 1814 and is said to be buried in 1841 in Grafton Park. He was the son of an English woman and a wealthy aristocratic French landlord in Lower Canada or Quebec. He was named for his famous father, Philippe-Ignace-François Aubert de-Gaspé. The family lived in a country manor in St. Jean Port Joli. Philippe, known as a novelist, wrote his one and only novel, called *L'Influence d'un Livre (The Influence of a Book)*. He was a newspaper reporter who covered the Legislative Assembly of Lower Canada. When he caused a brawl in the House of Assembly, Philippe was jailed for a month and when he was let out of jail after serving his sentence, he threw a stink bomb on the hot stove in Quebec Chambers. A warrant was issued for his arrest, so he left the city and went and hid in his father's summer home. This is when he decided to write his novel that had an English influence, causing many French citizens to be upset. Around this time his father was placed in debtor's prison for unpaid debts even though he was also the local Sheriff.

Philippe decided to leave Quebec so he travelled to Nova Scotia in 1840. Unfortunately he was destitute since his father was in prison from 1838 until 1841 and wasn't able to help him financially. In Halifax, an old school mate, Thomas Pyke, who was connected with the poorhouse, got him a job teaching at the orphanage, which was also part of the poorhouse. At this time he was twenty-seven years old and sadly he suddenly died in 1841 from a mysterious illness. It is believed that he was buried in Grafton Park, even though he was a Catholic.

Apparently a few Pirates are also said to be buried in this Cemetery. In 1844 the whole crew on the ship *Saladin*, except for a cook and the cabin boy, were said to have been murdered by a passenger and a few mutineers. This mutiny took place during rough seas off of the coast of Nova Scotia where those who survived were rescued. Halifax authorities became suspicious when they heard the remaining crew's story and the fact that the last passenger was also murdered. The cook and cabin boy stated that they had been hostages and they gave another version to the events that took place on the ship. The Hon. William Young defended the crew who placed all blame on the dead passenger. Judge Brenton Halliburton did not believe the crew, except for the cook and cabin boy and he sentenced them to all be hanged. They are believed to be buried in Grafton Park.

### **(C) Approximate Totals of Those Interred in the Poorhouse Cemetery:**

According to Dr. Allan Marble, who wrote in his book, *Physicians, Pestilence, and the Poor: A History of Medicine and Social Conditions in Nova Scotia, 1800-1867*, he states the following: "...the number of officially reported deaths in the Asylum during the period 1802 to 1866 was 2,840. It is estimated that the number of additional deaths, during the years when no official reports were filed with the House of Assembly, would total about 1,700. This would suggest that there could be approximately 4,500 paupers buried in the Poors' Burying Ground..." These numbers indicate that there are a lot more than the 800 which G. G. Gray suggested had been buried there in his article, *Recollections of Halifax*, published in the *Acadian Recorder* on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 1882.

Dr. Marble also states in his book, that during 1846, records show that there were thirty-six persons from the Poor House buried in Holy Cross Cemetery located on South Park Street. There is also a section in Camp Hill Cemetery, which opened in 1841, and is referred to as the Pauper's burying area, so not all paupers who died in the Poor House Asylum were buried in Grafton Park

### **(D) Changes and Additions Made to Grafton Park:**

In 1872 plans were being made by the City to add a new railing, along with graveled walkways and benches to be placed throughout the cemetery and to open it to the public as a park. Residents and visitors to Halifax could then find a place to sit and relax in the sun or under a shaded tree during the hot summer months. A few people, who felt it wasn't respectful to be walking about the grounds and over the graves of those buried there, protested this decision. By 1885 the park was said to be "unsightly" as the stone wall that had enclosed the Cemetery since 1835 was falling apart.

#### **(1) Sir Winston Churchill Statue:**

Adding to the beauty of the Park is the bronze statue of Sir Winston Churchill, the former Second World War Prime Minister of Great Britain. The statue, sculpted by Oscar Nemon weighs 1.5 tons and stands ten feet high. It was unveiled on January 20, 1980 and the statue was sculpted in the image that was taken from a photograph of Churchill while walking in Halifax. He was born in 1874 at Woodstock, Oxfordshire, England and died in 1965 in London. At times he had been a soldier, journalist, author and politician. He is generally regarded as one of the most important leaders in British and world history. He won the 1953 Nobel Prize in literature. "Considered reactionary on some issues, such as granting independence to Britain's colonies and at times regarded as a



self-promoter who changed political parties to further his career, it was his wartime leadership that earned him ionic status.”

## **(2) Sculptor of the Sir Winston Churchill Statue:**

Oscar Nemon (Neumann), the sculptor, was born in 1906 in Osijek, Austria-Hungary and died when he was 79 years old, in 1985 in Oxford, England. He was a well known Croatian sculptor and is best remembered for his series of more than a dozen public statues of Sir Winston Churchill. He was the son of Mavro Neumann and his wife, Eugenia Adler. Oscar was considered an accomplished artist from an early age and began exhibiting his sculptures locally in 1923 while still attending school. He studied in Paris and then went to Brussels in 1925 to study at the Academie Royale des Beaux-Arts where he won a gold medal for his sculpture. He continued to produce sculptures of a number of prominent people. However, with the threat of the Nazi Germany he decided to escape to England in 1938, just before the Second World War broke out. He had to leave behind numerous sculptures he had been working on, as well as members of his family who sadly died in the Holocaust.

In 1939 he married Patricia Villiers-Stuart, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel Patrick Villiers-Stuart and settled in Oxford, England. During the war and after the war was over he continued to produce sculptures of “a spectacular list of high-profile figures.” Besides the numerous sculptures he produced of Winston Churchill, he made portraits of various members of the British Royal Family, including Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh and the Queen’s Mother. He also made a sculpture of such leaders as Harry S. Truman, Margaret Thatcher and Dwight D. Eisenhower to name only a few. His last major piece was a monumental memorial to the Royal Canadian Air Force in Toronto in 1984. “He was made an Honorary Doctor of Letters at the University of St. Andrews in 1977, and a retrospective was held at the Ashmolean Museum in 1982.”

After his death in 1985, his house and studio remained closed for the next 17 years, but was reopened in 2003 as a museum of his life’s work. It also houses his papers which have been archived. Other papers, in connection to Winston Churchill and Margaret Thatcher’s sculptures are held in the Churchill Archives Center in Cambridge, England.

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Besides the impressive statue of Sir Winston Churchill standing in the Park, there is once again a beautiful stone wall surrounding the Park’s boundaries, which was added in 1951 when the Memorial Library was constructed and continues to be kept in excellent condition. The walkways continue to be used as a short cut to travel from Grafton and Brunswick Streets to Spring Garden Road. The benches are in demand as people relax, feeding the pigeons or eating their lunches before returning to work. The Park continues to be very popular with the residents and tourists of the City of Halifax with

many people unaware that they are walking over the graves of those who were less fortunate and were buried in a pauper's grave.

## APPENDIX I:

The following is a short list of the buildings designed by **Leslie R. Fairn** – Architect:

### Nova Scotia

- Kings County Courthouse, now Kings County Museum (1903)
- Digby County Court House (1910)
- West Highlands School, Amherst (1911)<sup>1</sup>
- Administration Building, Acadia University, Wolfville (1924)
- Dominion Public Building, Amherst (Beaux Arts, 1936)
- Annapolis Royal Town Hall Memorial Building (Classic Revival, 1922)
- Halifax Public Library (1951)
- Henry Hicks Academic Administration Building, Dalhousie University, Halifax (1951, with E. W. Haldenby)<sup>2</sup>
- Killam Memorial Library, Dalhousie University, Halifax (1971)

### New Brunswick

- Northumberland County Courthouse (Richardsonian Romanesque, 1913)
- Highfield Street United Baptist Church, Moncton, New Brunswick (English Gothic and Greek, 1923)

### Prince Edward Island

- Robertson Library, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown (1973, completed posthumously)

**SOURCE:** //en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leslie\_R\_Fairn

## APPENDIX II:

### MAYOR JOHN (GEE) AHERN:

Mayor John "Gee" Ahern, in his early years, was an active participant in hockey, rugby and baseball. The promotion of sport is what "Gee" Ahern is known for. He was responsible for the Halifax Herald Ten Mile Marathon, the Halifax Herald Full Marathon, and the Halifax Herald Forty Five Mile Bicycle Race. Ahern established the original Nova Scotia Sports Hall of Fame in 1958. He collected and donated many of the items that were first on display at the old Industrial Building at the Halifax Forum complex. An all-round community person, Ahern served as an Alderman and Mayor for the City of Halifax and also was a member of the Nova Scotia legislature.



## **APPENDIX III:**

**Memorial Items:** Over the years, the library has amassed a great number of items and symbols that strengthen its role as a memorial. Some of these include flags, standards, plaques, a Silver Cross replica, Book of Remembrance (2), and murals (since donated to Maritime Command Museum).

### **Flags and Standards**

There are two glass cases on either side of the Spring Garden entrance; one contains a Union Jack and a flag of the British Empire Service League, the other has two standards of the Silver Cross Women of Canada.

### **Silver Cross**

The Silver Cross hanging in the Library is a replica of the silver cross presented by the government of Canada to all mothers and widows of those who died in the service of their country during WWI, WWII and the Korean War. It was donated to the Library in 1950 by the Silver Cross Women of Canada.

### **Books of Remembrance**

There are two books of remembrance; the first one contains the names of Haligonians who perished during WWI. It also lists the cause of death.

The second book lists the names of the 677 men and women from Halifax who perished during WWII and the Korean War, and was donated to the Library in 1955 by the Silver Cross Women of Canada. Both are on public display. The books have been digitized and are available on the Halifax Public Libraries' website in [electronic format](#).

### **Cornerstone**

The cornerstone bears the mention, "This stone was laid under the auspices of the Halifax Branches of the Canadian Legion on November 11, 1949 by His Worship Lt. Col. GS Kinley, VD, Mayor of Halifax. The sod was turned for this building by Mayor JE Ahern on April 21, 1949."

### **Plaque**

A plaque on the building explains that "This building was erected in memory of those who gave their lives in defence of their country 1914-1918 1939-1945. For their faith – for their courage – for their sacrifice, we will remember them."

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### **Murals**

Three murals were commissioned and painted by local artist Commander Donald C. MacKay in 1951. They were exhibited in the library and donated to the Maritime Command Museum (CFB Halifax) in 1974.

## The Library as a Living Memorial

The library was chosen as a memorial because there was a need for a new public facility, but also because of a consensus that an inanimate object such as a statue or monument would not do justice to the memory of all those who were lost (*see quoted sources below*). The library, as an institution that fosters growth and learning, was vested with the role of a living memorial, one that would continue to consecrate the memories of those who died by promoting and defending the very things that were suppressed during the war: freedom of speech and freedom of study:

“The lack of such a library in Halifax is felt by many to be a disgrace. Nothing could be more symbolic of the sacrifices of those we wish to honour than a library housing books which Adolf Hitler burnt. A well-designed library would be a lasting Memorial, and with the passage of the years would evermore fittingly hallow the memories of those who died that others might enjoy freedom of speech and freedom of study.” – Petition to Mayor and Council, November 1947

“The committee, believing that those who served in the Second German War deserved a living, rather than an inanimate memorial, urged that a library should be established to honor them.”  
–*Mail Star*, Jan. 15, 1948

“An even greater memorial to those heroes of our wars is the ideal on which the whole building is erected – the faith of the citizens of Halifax in the democratic ideal of making freely available knowledge to each and every resident of the city.” – Library document, 1951

### Groups Involved

The **Canadian Legion**, the **Silver Cross Women of Canada** and the **Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE)** were actively involved in the planning and outfitting of the library.

(Source: Halifax Memorial Library website)

## Research Sources:

(A) **Registry of Deeds:** located at Ackerley Drive, Burnside Park, Dartmouth, NS: researched the ownership of the property. Unfortunately no deeds were accessible but records show that one was once recorded and registered under #B5/P54 GRT14634. A typed version of the deed registered in 1882 was produced in a binder in the hands of the Heritage Department of HRM. A copy was located at the NSARM. Source: (RG 35-102 (5A5)332A.3)

## (B) NSARM:

Maps: 1878 Hopkins Atlas

1895 Goads Insurance Plan

*(Both maps show Grafton Park with walkways)*

## (C) Websites:

- 1) [www.queenslanding.ca/team.php](http://www.queenslanding.ca/team.php)
- 2) [www.springgardenarea.com/largeMap.asp](http://www.springgardenarea.com/largeMap.asp)
- 3) [www.halifax.ca/cah/publicart.html](http://www.halifax.ca/cah/publicart.html)
- 4) [www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/research/topics/local-history-genealogy](http://www.halifaxpubliclibraries.ca/research/topics/local-history-genealogy)
- 5) [www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/virtual/nsis/exhibit.asp?ID=412&Language=English](http://www.gov.ns.ca/nsarm/virtual/nsis/exhibit.asp?ID=412&Language=English)
- 6) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leslie\\_R\\_Fairn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leslie_R_Fairn)

(D) Located no historical **photographs** of Grafton Park at NSARM, however photos are available at the Chronicle Herald Archives showing the progress of the construction of the Library.

## (E) Books:

1. *Houses of Nova Scotia*, by Allen Penney, Formac Publishing Company, Halifax, NS, 1989.
2. *Glimpse of Halifax*, by Dr. Phyllis Blakeley, Mika Publishing, Belleville, ON, 1973.
3. *Mayors and Wardens of the Former City of Halifax*, Millard Wright, published by author, 2003.
4. *Architects of Nova Scotia: A Biographical Dictionary 1605-1950*, by Maud Rosinski, Government of Nova Scotia, Department of Municipal Affairs, Heritage Division, 1994.
5. *Physicians, Pestilence, and the Poor: A History of Medicine and Social Conditions in Nova Scotia, 1800-1867*, by Dr. Allan Marble, Trafford Publishing, 2006.

6. *In Halifax Town*, by Louis W. Collins, 1975.

(F) Information regarding the architectural design and other historical information found in this report concerning the Library were taken from research material located in two binders in the hands of the Heritage Property Program, Halifax Regional Municipality. It includes a number of newspaper articles describing the construction of the Library and the process it took to complete the structure and those involved with the construction.



**Attachment B: EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR REGISTRATION OF  
HERITAGE BUILDINGS HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

**1. AGE**

Age is probably the single most important factor in the popular understanding of the heritage value of buildings. The following age categories are based on local, national and international occasions that may be considered to have defined the character of what is how the Halifax Regional Municipality and its architecture.

Date of Construction	Points	Timeline
1749 - 1785	25	Halifax Garrison Town to the Loyalist migration
1786 - 1830	20	Boom period following construction of the Shubenacadie Canal
1831 - 1867	16	From Boom to Confederation
1868 - 1899	13	Confederation to the end of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century
1900 - 1917	9	Turn of the Century to Halifax Harbour Explosion
1918 - 1945	5	The War Years
1945 - Present	3	Post-War

*\* Maximum score of 25 points in this category*

**2. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE**

A building can receive points for:

- A) Having specific associations with important occasions, institutions, personages & groups
- OR** B) For being architecturally important unique/representative of a particular period.

**2A) Relationship to Important Occasions, Institutions, Personages or Groups**

Nationally	Points	Comments
Intimately Related	16 - 20	
Moderately Related	11 - 15	
Loosely Related	1 - 10	
Provincially	Points	Comments
Intimately Related	11 - 15	
Moderately Related	6 - 10	
Loosely Related	1 - 5	
Locally	Points	Comments

- Intimately Related	11- 15	
- Moderately Related	6 - 10	
- Loosely Related	1 - 5	
No relationship to important occasions, institutions, personages or groups.	0	

*\* Maximum score of 20 points in this category, scoring from one of the three categories only*

### **2B) Important/Unique Architectural Style or Highly Representative of an Era**

<b>Importance</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Highly important/unique/representative of an era	16 - 20	
Moderately important/unique/representative of an era	11 - 15	
Somewhat important/representative of an era	10 - 1	
Not important/ unique/representative of an era	0	

*\* Maximum score of 20 points in this category.*

### **3. SIGNIFICANCE OF ARCHITECT/BUILDER**

Is the structure representative of the work of an architect or builder of local, provincial or national importance.

<b>Status</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Nationally Significant	7 - 10	
Provincially Significant	4 - 6	
Locally Significant	1 - 3	
Not Significant	0	

*\* Maximum score of 10 points in this category.*

#### 4. ARCHITECTURAL MERIT

The assessment of architectural merit is based on two factors:

**A) Construction type/building technology:** which refers to the method by which the structure was built (early or rare uses of materials), and building techniques;

**B) Style:** which refers to the form or appearance of the architecture.

<b>Construction type/building technology</b>		* Maximum score of 20 points in this category.
<b>A) Construction type</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Comments – max score of 10 points</b>
Very rare/ early example	7 - 10	
Moderately rare/ early example	4 - 6	
Somewhat rare/ early example	1 - 3	
Not rare/ common example	0	
<b>B) Style</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Comments – max score of 10 points</b>
Very rare/ early example	7 - 10	
Moderately rare/ early example	4 - 6	
Somewhat rare/ early example	1 - 3	
Not rare/ common example	0	

#### 5. ARCHITECTURAL INTEGRITY

Architectural Integrity refers to the extent to which the building retains original features/ structures/styles - not the state of the building's condition.

<b>Architecture</b>	Consider any additions/ removal/ alterations to windows, doors, porches, dormers, roof lines, foundations, chimneys, and cladding.	
<b>Exterior</b>	<b>Points</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Largely unchanged	11 - 15	
Modest changes	6 - 10	
Major changes	1 - 5	
Seriously compromised	0	* Maximum score of 15 points in this category.

**6. RELATIONSHIP TO SURROUNDING AREA**

<b>Points</b>	<b>Comments</b>
6 - 10	The building is an important architectural asset contributing to the heritage character of the surrounding area.
1 - 5	The Architecture is compatible with the surrounding area and maintains its heritage character.
0	Does not contribute to the character of the surrounding area.

*\* Maximum score of 10 points in this category.*

**SCORING SUMMARY**

<b>Property</b>	<b>Date Reviewed</b>	<b>Reviewer</b>

<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Highest Possible Score</b>	<b>Score Awarded</b>
1. Age	25	
2. a) Relationship to Important Occasions, Institutions, Personages or Groups <b>OR</b> 2. b) Important/Unique Architectural Style or Highly Representative of an Era	20	
3. Significance of Architect/Builder	10	
4. a) Architectural Merit: Construction type/building technology	10	
4. b) Architectural Merit: Style	10	
5. Architectural Integrity	15	
6. Relationship to Surrounding Area	10	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	

**SCORE NECESSARY FOR DESIGNATION**

**50**

**Designation Recommended?**

**YES**

**NO**

**COMMENTS:**

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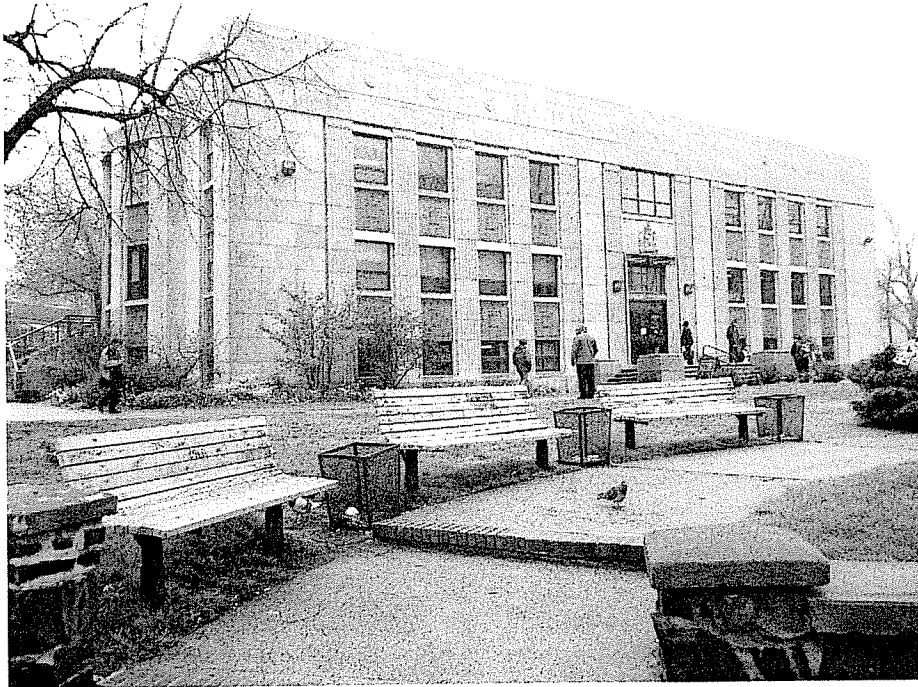
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**Attachment C: Photographs**



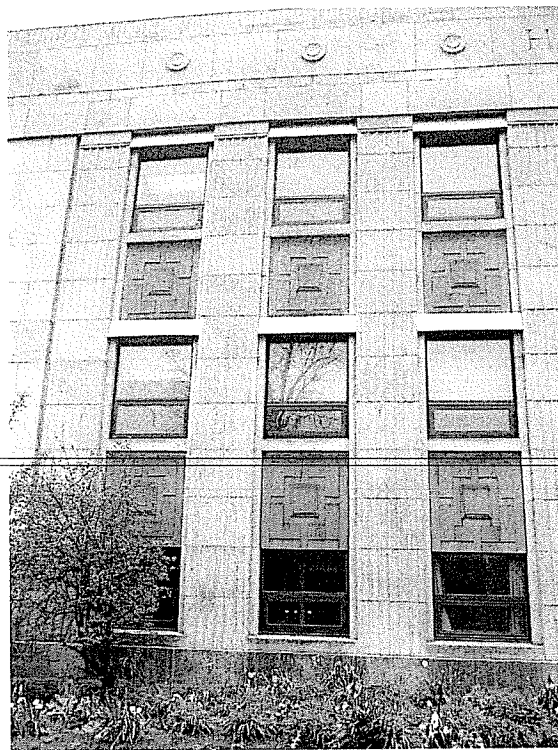
**1 Front elevation of the Halifax Memorial Library, 5381 Spring Garden Road.**



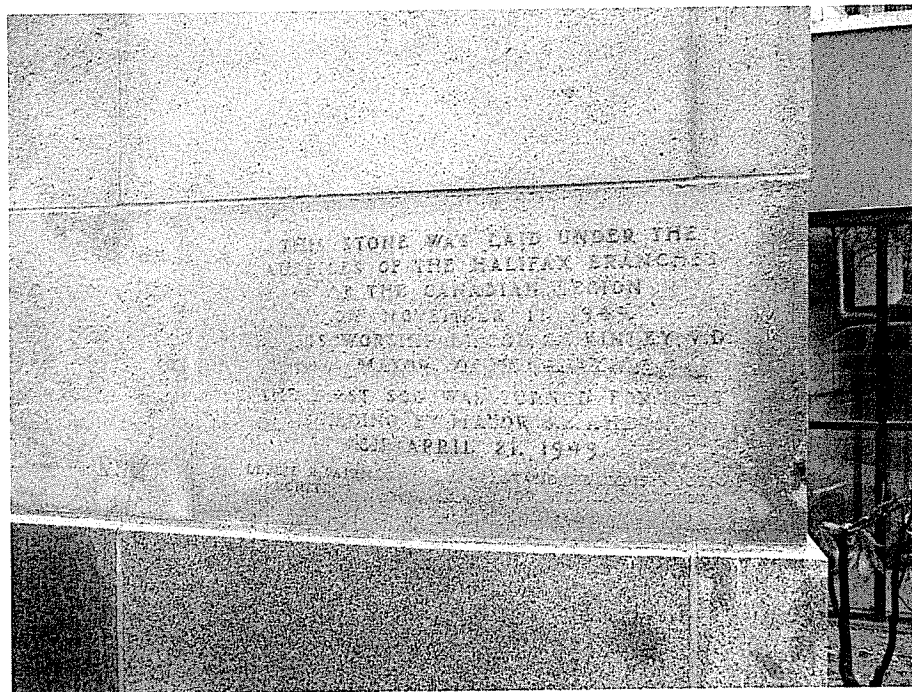
**2 Side of building as viewed from Brunswick Street.**



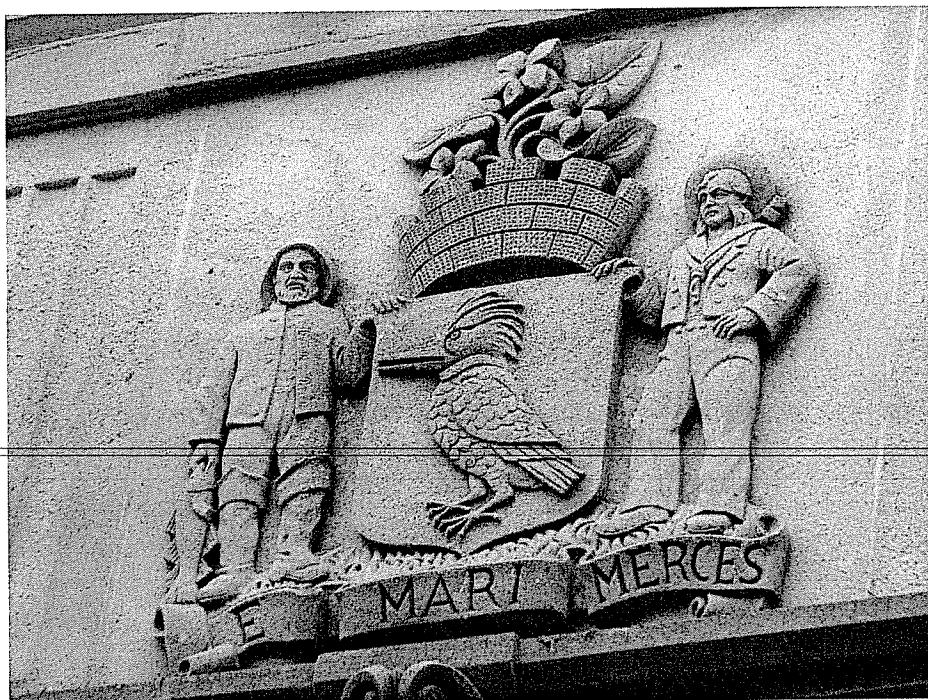
3 Modern addition as viewed from Grafton Street.



4 Windows and detail.



5 Cornerstone.



6 Halifax Regional Municipality crest etched in sandstone.