

Point Pleasant Park

Map and Guide

For almost two centuries, Point Pleasant formed a vital element of the defences of Halifax, which was established by the British to counter French influence in North America, and as the base and headquarters of the Royal Navy's North American Station.

In 1866 the Crown leased the park to the City of Halifax for 999 years. Annual rent of one shilling is still paid to the Queen's representative, the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, by the Mayor of Halifax at a ceremony in the park each summer.

An Acadian Forest, the 190 acre park is home to over 120 species of trees and plants, 150 bird species and numerous small animals. It was devastated in 2003 by a severe ice storm and by Hurricane Juan, which destroyed 75% of the trees. Since then a great deal of effort has been spent to restore and replant the forest and to repair and stabilize the shoreline.



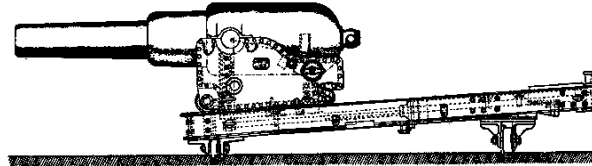
HMS *Shannon* leads the captured USS *Chesapeake* into Halifax Harbour
June 1813

Painting by J.G. Schetly

The Halifax Harbour defence system is unique in North America, containing a broad range of defences from the mid-18th century to the Second World War.

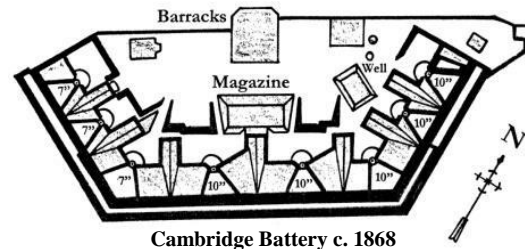
The **Northwest Arm Battery** ① and **Point Pleasant Battery** ② were the first two fortifications built at Point Pleasant, in 1762 during the Seven Years War with France, to guard the entrance to the Northwest Arm and the main harbour respectively. Both were rebuilt during the French Revolutionary Wars (1793-1802) and armed with various 9- to 32-pounder smooth-bore cannon (effective range about 1,500 yards). Northwest Arm Battery fell into disuse in the 1860s with the advent of longer range rifled guns. Point Pleasant Battery was rebuilt in 1886 and used during World War I (1914-1918) with two 12-pounder quick-firing (QF) guns and searchlights as part of the anti-submarine harbour defences.

Chain Rock Battery ③ was built in 1782, just after the American Revolution (1775-76). Its purpose was to guard the chain boom that stretched across the Northwest Arm to keep out enemy shipping (and prevent a flanking attack on Halifax from the West).



Fort Ogilvie and Cambridge Battery
7-inch Rifled Muzzle Loading (RML) Gun c. 1870

Fort Ogilvie ④, named for General James Ogilvie, commander of Halifax's defences, was built in 1793 during the French Revolutionary War. Mounting six 24-pounder cannon (effective range 1,200 yards), the fort defended Halifax through the Napoleonic Wars and the War of 1812. It was upgraded in the 1860s amid fears of an outbreak of hostilities with the United States during the American Civil War (1861-1865). Five 9-inch and five 7-inch Armstrong rifled muzzle-loading (RML) guns (effective range 5,500 yards) were fitted by 1870 as Fort Ogilvie was paired with the newly-built **Cambridge Battery** ⑤ (with five 10-inch/18-ton and three 7-inch/7-ton RML guns - named for the Duke of Cambridge, then head of the British Army) to counter newer longer-range naval guns and ironclad enemy warships.



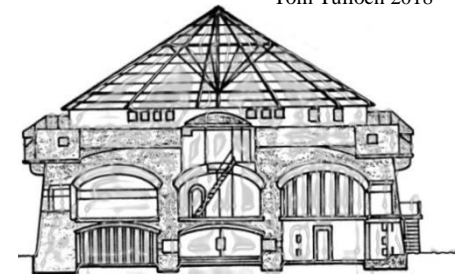
Cambridge Battery c. 1868

Both forts were rebuilt around 1900 and each was rearmed with a pair of modern 6-inch Mk VII breech-loading (BL) guns (range about 12,000 yds). Fort Ogilvie remained in use into World War II (1939-45) as a training battery, armed with two 4.7-inch guns. Ceasing operations in 1942, it was the last fort to have been active at Point Pleasant.

Gun Battery

Barrack Room

Magazine



Prince of Wales Tower c. 1797
(cross section, showing original wooden roof)

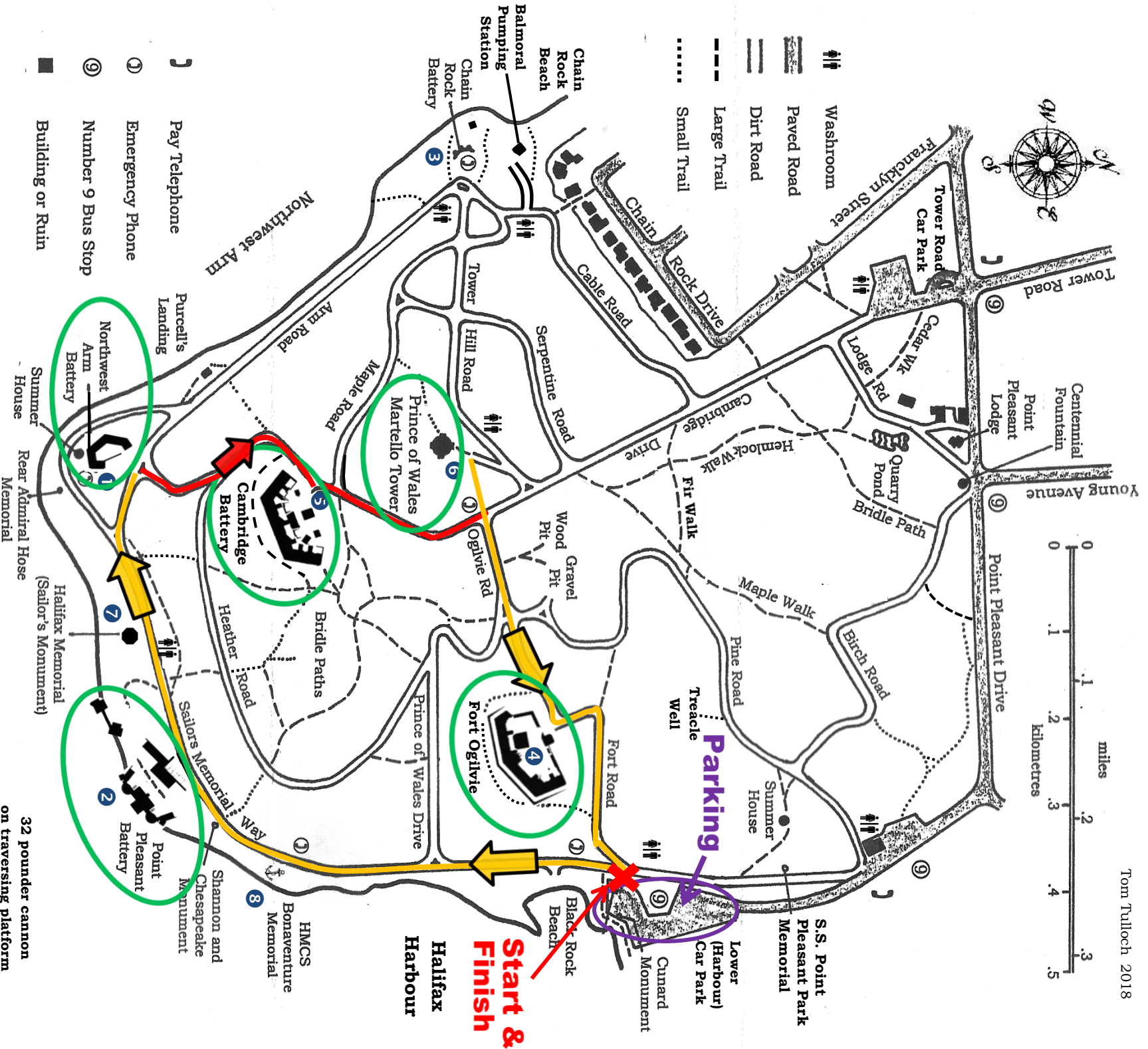
The **Prince of Wales Tower** ⑥, the oldest Martello tower in North America, is the park's centerpiece, built between 1796 and 1798 by Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and named for his brother, the future King George IV. On the highest point in the Park, the tower was defended variously by 6-pounder and 24-pounder cannon, and 68-pounder shorter-range carronades. It was designed to supplement the defence of the Northwest Arm and to guard the rear approaches to Fort Ogilvie, and Northwest Arm and Point Pleasant Batteries. With four granite parapet galleries added in 1862, the tower was converted to a self-defending central ammunition magazine after newer, longer range rifled guns made it vulnerable as a fort.

The **Halifax (Sailors') Memorial** ⑦ is a 40-foot tall granite Cross of Sacrifice, a Commonwealth war memorial which honours the members of the Royal Canadian Navy, the Canadian Merchant Marine and the Canadian Army who died at sea during the First and Second World Wars.

The anchor and chain from Canada's last aircraft carrier **HMCS Bonaventure**, ⑧ paid off in 1970, commemorates members of the Armed Forces of Canada who died at sea in peacetime.



Fort Ogilvie 6-inch Breech-Loading (BL) Gun Crew c. 1904



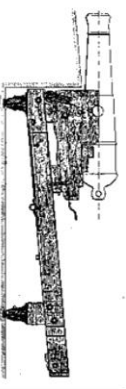
- ⌋ Pay Telephone
- 📞 Emergency Phone
- 🚌 Number 9 Bus Stop
- Building or Ruin

Inscription on Summer House



Point Pleasant Park

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada



32 pounder cannon
on traversing platform
Point Pleasant Battery c. 1805

For more information about Halifax's military heritage and a copy of this guide please visit
the **Halifax Military Heritage Preservation Society** at <https://hmhps.ca/index.lasso>