

# BUILDING STONE IN NOVA SCOTIA

by

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## ABSTRACT

Nova Scotia stone has been used for the construction of buildings and monuments since the times of earliest European settlement. Over 250 quarries have been documented. Carboniferous age sandstones of Cumberland, Colchester, Pictou and Antigonish Counties account for much of the total building stone production. Sandstone was desired because of rich, earth tone colours, workability and availability. Building construction techniques used stone as load-bearing walls, often with decorative exterior treatment.

Rocks of granitic composition have also been quarried in Nova Scotia chiefly in the Halifax area and in parts of Annapolis and Shelburne Counties. Although some granite dimension stone was used in building construction, the majority of granite production was used in the monument and grave marker trade.

Stone buildings require maintenance and, in some cases, complete restoration. Replacement stone matching the original is often required. This study has identified and inventoried 51 quarries and quarry prospects. They are described in detail and organized alphabetically by rock type, colour, county and quarry name.

The most historically significant quarries and those with the best development potential were assessed by diamond drilling. Large blocks were recovered from many quarry sites for further testing and analysis. A building stone catalogue complete with samples was prepared (Nova Scotia Department of Mines and Energy, Sample Catalogue 89-01).

Sources of brown, red, buff, olive and grey sandstone are described from locations including Amherst, Cumberland County; Eight Mile Brook, Pictou County; Wallace, Cumberland County; and Marys Point, New Brunswick. Dark and light granites are identified at Quarry Lake, Halifax County, and Terence Bay, Halifax County. Colourful felsic breccias are described from Scatarie Island, Cape Breton County.

Nova Scotia building stone is available in many colours and textures for the restoration specialist and several sites of granitic rock are suitable for the manufacture of curbing stone, tile and cladding.