

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

GATEHOUSE LODGE, ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY, COLWOOD, BC

FHBRO number: **99-98**
DFRP number: **17452**
Resource name: **Gatehouse Lodge (RR8)**
Address: **Royal Roads University, Colwood, BC**
FHBRO status: **"Recognized" Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1912-1916**
Designer: **Howland S. Chandler, Brett & Hall Landscape Architects, Boston**
Original function: **Residence at principal gate to Dunsmuir Estate**
Current function: **Permanent married quarters residence**
Modifications: **Unchanged**
Custodian: **Department of National Defence**

Reasons for Designation

The Gatehouse Lodge is a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values.

Historical value:

The Gatehouse Lodge is associated with the manifestation of great wealth and lavish estates created by leading Canadian industrialists at the beginning of the 20th century. During the first phase of the site's development between 1908-1937, the building was an essential component of J. Dunsmuir's Edwardian estate, and located at the principal entrance to the property and serving as a private residence for on-site employees. The Gatehouse Lodge is also associated with the expansion of the Canadian Armed Forces and the development of its professional training programs during and after WWII. During this second phase of the site's development, DND purchased the estate to establish the Royal Roads University, at which time the Gatehouse Lodge became the executive officer's residence.

Architectural value:

The Gatehouse Lodge is a well-proportioned, two-storey lodge and is a very good example of the Tudor Revival Style that features steeply pitched gable roofs, corbelled gable ends, and tall windows with stone-mullioned frames and label mouldings. Elegant and solidly built, the Gatehouse Lodge is constructed of high quality materials and craftsmanship as evident in the exterior stonework and stone details, as well as the interior joinery.

Environmental value:

Located at a secondary entrance road leading to the Royal Roads University, the Gatehouse Lodge sets the tone for the campus and reinforces the estate character of the institution. Visually prominent owing to its high quality design and location along Sooke Road, the Gatehouse Lodge is familiar to military personnel living in the permanent married quarters in the surrounding area.

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Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of the Gatehouse Lodge should be respected:

Its early role as an illustration of the manifestation of great wealth and lavish estates created by leading Canadian industrialists at the beginning of the 20th century, and its later role as an illustration of the expansion of the Canadian Armed Forces and the development of its professional training programs during and after WWI are reflected in:

- the building's Tudor Revival Style, its prominent location at the entrance to the property and its function as one of the essential components of Dunsmuir's Edwardian;
- its later use as the executive officer's residence as part of the Royal Roads University.

Its Tudor Revival Style and high quality materials and craftsmanship as manifested in:

- the building's well-proportioned scale and composition consisting of a box hall plan with corbelled gable ends, steeply pitched gable roofs and a central cluster of chimneys;
- the tall, casement windows with stone-mullioned frames, some of which are grouped in triplets;
- the use of square-arched dripstones or label mouldings over the windows and doors;
- the exterior stonework including the irregular rubble walling with rustic Haddington Island stone corner quoins;
- the use of English green slate roofing; and,
- the rich interior detailing such as the exposed floor beams, the pilastered mantle piece, and glazed brick fireplace opening with cast iron register.

The manner in which the building reinforces the pastoral character of the present day institution, as evidenced in:

- its compatibility with the park-like Edwardian campus and the other buildings that were formerly part of the estate; and,
- the building's visual prominence owing to its design and location at one of the entrances to the university and on Sooke Road, in close proximity to the PMQ residences.

For guidance on interventions, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*. For further information contact FHBRO.

January 2003