

Esquimalt, British Columbia
Museum Square - Building No. 29
CFB Esquimalt

HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

Building No. 29, the Stores Building within the original Royal Naval Hospital complex, was constructed c. 1890-94 to the designs of Victoria architect John Teague. It subsequently served as part of the Esquimalt Military Convalescent Hospital, operated on the same site by the Military Hospitals Commission from 1915 to 1922. In 1922, HMCS Naden was established as a west coast naval training complex by the Royal Canadian Navy, and this training complex continues as an important component of modern-day CFB Esquimalt. Building No. 29 served a variety of functions, and presently provides storage space for the base museum. The custodial department is National Defence. See FHBRO Building Report 88-1 54.

Reason for Designation

Building No. 29 at CFB Esquimalt has been designated a Recognized heritage property because of its historical associations, and its role as part of a significant institutional complex.

Historically, it was an integral part of the 1887-1894 Royal Naval Hospital complex, an essential service in maintaining Esquimalt as the headquarters of the Pacific station of the Royal Navy from 1865 to 1905. This was one of thirteen hospitals maintained by the Admiralty in Britain and abroad. From 1915 to 1922, when the complex was on loan to the Military Hospitals Commission, it became an element of this important national medical program set up to care for World War I casualties and service personnel suffering from tuberculosis. From 1922 through the mid-1930s, the former hospital buildings housed the first west coast Royal Canadian Navy training establishment, illustrating the evolution of Canadian control over all aspects of national defence. This function, as part of HMCS Naden, continues to the present day.

Architecturally, the building represents a significant phase in the evolution of hospital planning and design. The complex it is part of is a rare surviving Canadian example of a "pavilion hospital," a building type popular in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to counter overcrowding and the spread of disease through improved ventilation and greater separation of functions. Building No. 29 survives relatively intact, still connected by a verandah to other buildings within the complex.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of Building No. 29 is defined by its exterior façades and its integrated setting within the surviving Royal Navy Hospital complex.

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Esquimalt, British Columbia
Museum Square - Building No. 29 (Continued)

The building is a long, one-storey structure in brick, with a hipped roof and a verandah.

The raised foundation, the bracketed cornice, and the segmentally-arched door and window openings with stone surrounds, as well as the hipped roof and verandah, give the building an architectural vocabulary consistent with the other original buildings in the compound.

Although less formal than Buildings 20, 35 or 39, this building is a visually integral part of the complex and a well-balanced, functional structure. Its original chimneys survive. There have been minor modifications such as reroofing with asphalt shingles, but in general the building has remained virtually intact and should continue to be carefully maintained. Every opportunity should be taken to restore original features, such as the cedar shingle roof, based on historic evidence.

The building is important to the historical and architectural integrity of the building. According to period site plans, it was joined at one time to Building No. 20 and the now-demolished kitchen building by a covered walkway. The connection to Buildings 35-39 remains intact, and should be preserved. Arrangement of site features within the compound should be designed to enhance the period quality of the five original buildings.

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