

FHBRO Number 89-202

Esquimalt Dockyard

### **Building D211**

(former Clothing and Receiving Stores)  
Esquimalt, B.C.

Building D21 1 was constructed in 1942 as the main dockyard receiving stores as part of the wartime expansion of the dockyard. It is now the base supply office. The Department of National Defence is custodian of the building and the building is part of Esquimalt Naval Stations National Historic Site. See FHBRO Building Report 89-202, volume 2.

### **Reasons for Designation**

Building D21 1 has been designated Recognized because of its historical associations, and for its architectural and environmental qualities.

Building D21 1 was one of the largest single buildings constructed during the first major World War II building expansion of the dockyard. Built as a bulk storage facility, this building is closely associated with the function of the dockyard as a fleet servicing facility during the war.

Although a utilitarian storage building, Building D21 1 has many of the characteristics of the moderne architectural style, simply expressed. Architecturally distinct from the scale, design and materials of the earlier dockyard buildings, Building D21 1 is clearly of the World War II period. It was constructed of reinforced concrete with extensive open storage areas.

The integrity of the site, part of the parcel of land expropriated from the Village of Esquimalt in 1942, remains high. Building D21 1 is readily identifiable as part of the World War II grouping of buildings strung along this stretch of the Hospital Road, which includes buildings 210, 212, 213 and 214.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of Building D21 1 resides in its association with the World War II expansion of the dockyard, its architectural design and its importance as one of a group of World War II dockyard buildings.

Building D21 1 is a monolithic, four-storey, flat-roofed utilitarian storage building constructed in reinforced concrete. Although very simple in its overall design, it is very

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much a design of the modern period. The building has a strong horizontal character emphasized by the flat roof and the horizontal bands of windows separated by continuous, horizontal spandrel panels. The deepest window band is on the main floor, providing a base to the building, while the upper floors are uniformly narrower.

The main elevations are predominantly flat in character. Two vertical forms projecting slightly from the wall surface are the main compositional elements; these mark two entrances to the building and the vertical circulation inside. These forms are characteristic of classical moderne federal architecture in the period from the 1930s to the 1950s. The main loading bay is centred on the main elevation. Although it is an important functional element in the history of the building, it is not a prominent compositional element. The main texture in the facade comes from the divided window bands. All of these features contribute to the stylistic character of the building and should be protected.

The interior of the building, constructed to provide bulk storage space, is now divided into offices. These areas could continue to be managed with flexibility, providing permanent and irreversible changes are not made to the concrete structure of the building.

Building D21 1 is part of a “family” of buildings from the World War II expansion of the dockyard strung along Hospital Road, and as such share similar stylistic characteristics. The strong visual relationships and the consistency of design among this group, which includes buildings 210, 212, 213 and 214, should be maintained.

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For further guidance, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*.

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