

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

BUILDING 1020, WORK POINT BARRACKS, CFB ESQUIMALT, BC

FHBRO number: **89-205**
DFRP number: **17402**
Resource name: **Building 1020 (Administration Building)**
Address: **Work Point Barracks, CFB Esquimalt, Esquimalt, BC**
FHBRO status: **“Recognized” Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1921**
Designer: **Department of Public Works**
Original function: **Principal administrative building and headquarters for the garrison commander**
Current function: **Administrative headquarters**
Modifications: **Addition (1941)**
Custodian: **Department of National Defence**

Reasons for Designation

Building 1020 is a “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values.

Historical value:

Building 1020 is associated with the need for coastal artillery defence in the Victoria-Esquimalt area of southwestern British Columbia. Work Point Barracks was established in 1887 as the quartering, administrative, and command center for the C Battery, Regiment of Canadian Artillery. In 1893, it became the command headquarters of an expanded coastal defence system which was intended to protect the Dockyard and the nearby capital of Victoria from attack by hostile warships.

Architectural value:

Formal and massive in appearance, Building 1020 is a long, one-storey L-shaped wood frame structure with a flat roof, a raised concrete topped rubble foundation and shiplap siding. Building 1020 is characterized by an eclectic combination of design elements, the most prominent of which are the tall windows, a crenellated cornice line, and a central octagonal tower with an arched opening which houses the main entrance door. Building 1020 displays superior craftsmanship in the execution of the carpentry on all exterior components.

Environmental value:

Building 1020 frames and anchors the eastern edge of the original parade square on a flat, formally landscaped site, with its back against the narrow end of a peninsula. Visually prominent, Building 1020 reinforces the military setting and is known to base personnel and to visitors alike as the main administration building and the headquarters of the garrison commander.

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Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of Building 1020 should be respected:

Its role as an illustration of early coastal artillery defence in the Victoria-Esquimalt area of southwestern British Columbia is reflected in:

- the building's prominent location and relationship to the parade square.

Its unique and eclectic design, functional layout and high quality materials and craftsmanship as manifested in:

- the formal, well-proportioned, one-storey L-shaped wood frame building which features a central octagonal tower with an arched entrance opening and recessed door, tall windows, and a raised concrete topped rubble foundation;
- the distinctive silhouette created by the flat roof, crenellated cornice line and tower;
- the execution of the carpentry on all exterior components;
- the textures and colours of the exterior cladding such as the white shiplap siding and projecting entablature, and the green cornerboards, cornice cap, window trim and door surrounds;
- the axial circulation pattern that creates a central hall plan flanked by double-loaded corridors; and,
- the original interior finishes such as the paneling and fittings including picture rails.

The manner in which the building reinforces the military character of the setting as evidenced in:

- its architectural compatibility with the other frame buildings on the parade square;
- its visual prominence owing to its design, proportions and commanding location at the eastern end of the parade square where it frames the site and serves as an anchor to this important organizing feature.

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

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