

GULF OF GEORGIA CANNERY

National Historic Site

Situated atop wooden pilings over the Fraser River where mountains of fish once crowded the receiving dock, you can smell the sea and hear the lap of waves beneath the Cannery floorboards. Fishing, as any old-timer will tell you, has a way of hooking you for life.

Built in 1894 in the historic fishing village of Steveston, the Cannery was the largest building of its kind and the leading producer of canned salmon in British Columbia. It stopped canning in the 1930s but remained active as a net loft, fish depot and later as a herring reduction plant.

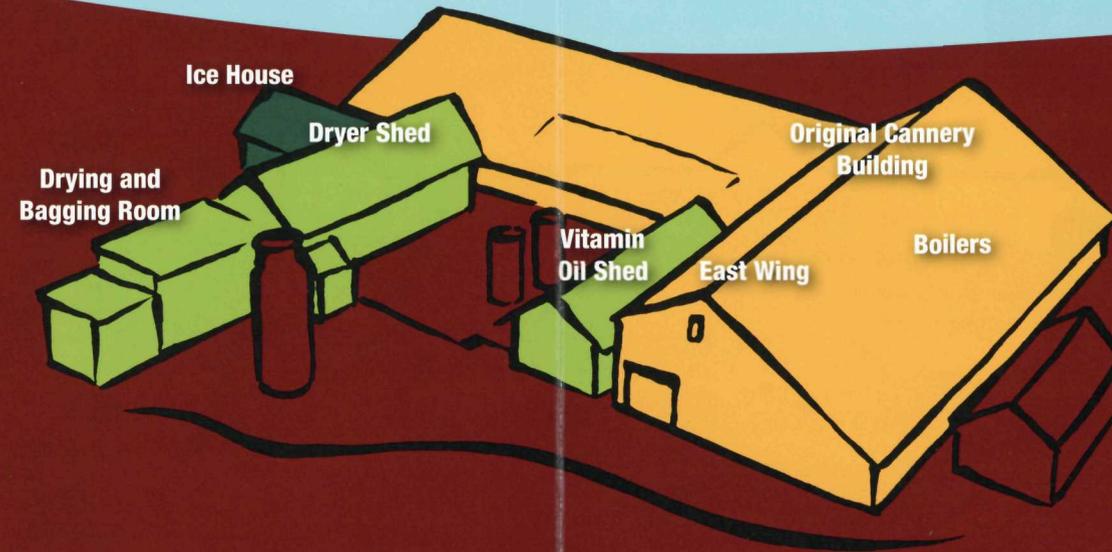
After the Gulf of Georgia Cannery ceased operations, the local community lobbied various levels of government to preserve the building due to its significant contribution to Canadian history. In 1979 it was transferred to Parks Canada. Development of the site began in the early 1990s and the first phase opened to the public in 1994.

The site is now fully restored and operated by the Gulf of Georgia Cannery Society, an independent non-profit society established in 1986 with the mandate to preserve and promote the history of Canada's West Coast fishing industry. Key exhibits include a functioning salmon canning line that presents both the social and technological history of the canning industry, a herring reduction plant and a flexible exhibit space.



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For more information on upcoming events and programs, facility rentals, birthday parties and membership please visit www.gulfofgeorgiacannery.com or call 604-664-9009.



CANNERY BUILDING CHRONOLOGY

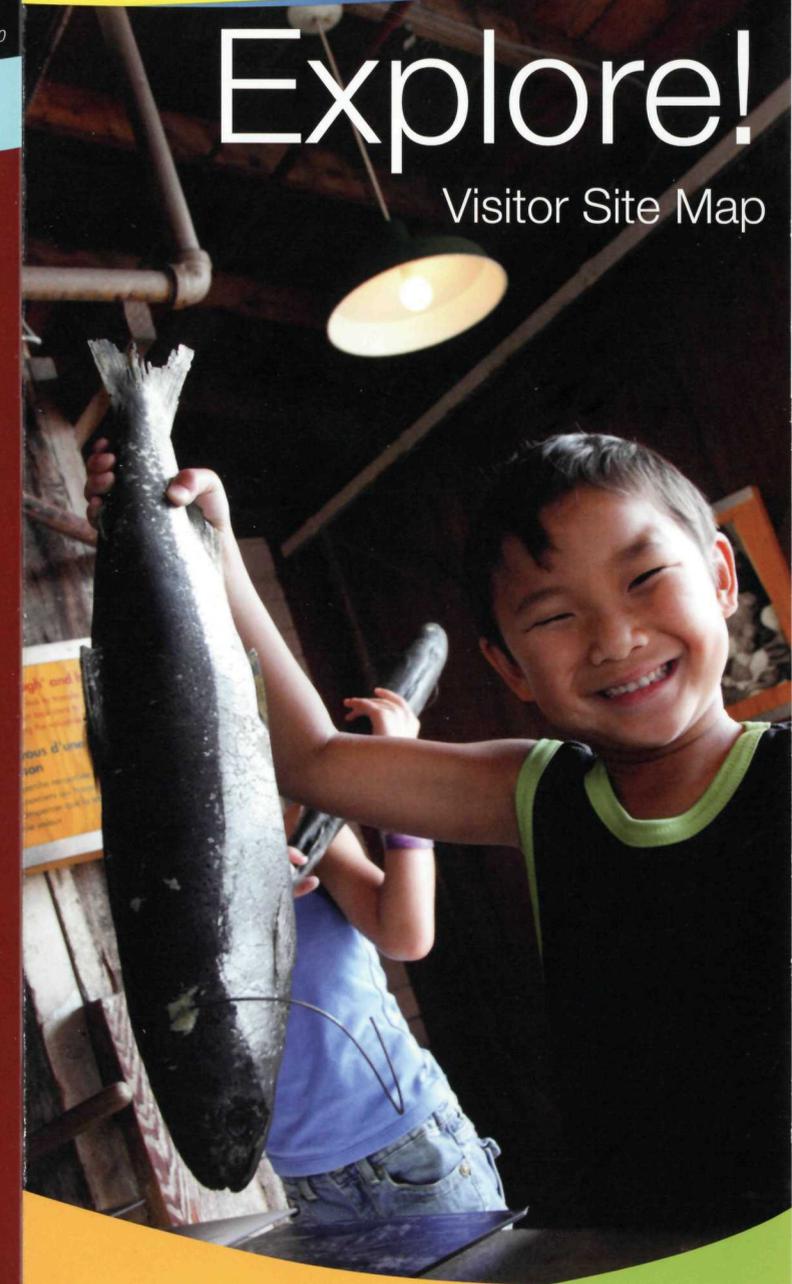
- 1894** The original L-shaped Cannery Building was constructed to house one manual canning line and a butchering shed. Many adaptations were made to the building over the years to accommodate the changing needs of the industry.
- 1897** The East Wing was built to provide additional space for packing and a seasonal living area.
- 1906** With the arrival of the Iron Butcher, the West Wing that originally housed the butchering shed was converted to net storage.
- 1932** The Cannery's original west wing was demolished by a windstorm and never replaced.
- 1940-41** The roofline was raised to accommodate an additional boiler.
- 1943** The Ice House was built to provide ice for the Canadian Fishing Company fleet.
- 1940-64** Various additions and modifications were made to the building to accommodate the herring reduction process including the construction of the Vitamin Oil Shed (1940) and the Dryer Shed (1948), raising the roof of the original building to accommodate the evaporator, and the construction of the drying and bagging room (1964).
- 1979** The Gulf of Georgia Cannery ceases operations.
- 1994** The Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site, commemorating the history of the commercial fishing industry on Canada's West Coast, opens to the public.



Gulf of Georgia Cannery
National Historic Site
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