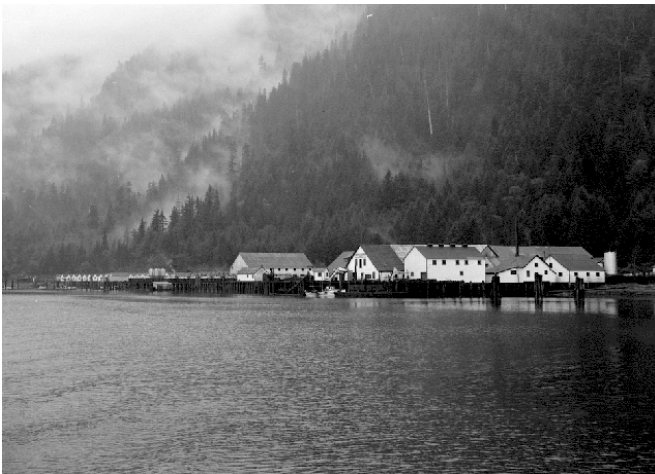


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# Cannery Stabilization and Conservation North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site



North Pacific Cannery in 1947  
Source: British Columbia Archives  
[www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca](http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca)

Call Number: I-28903

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

North Pacific Cannery operated from 1889 to 1968. It continued to run as a fish reduction plant until full closure in 1980. The North Pacific is typical of North Coast canneries and is the oldest extant north coast cannery. In 1987 BC Packers transferred the site to the Northcoast Maritime Museum Association, now the North Pacific Cannery Village Museum Society. Since acquiring responsibility for the cannery, the society has stabilised buildings and developed rudimentary tourist facilities and services (restaurant, bed and breakfast). Not all buildings have been stabilized and many remain at risk of collapse. Most of the facilities on the site require extensive conservation work. A document entitled *North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site and Village Museum Conservation and Protection Report*, describes the required work in detail.

A cost share agreement between the North Pacific Cannery Village Museum Society and Parks Canada was recently approved. Parks Canada funds will be used to undertake work described in the conservation and protection report. Projects are scheduled over a 4 year construction period with project initiation expected in the Autumn of 2000. Contributing funds to the project triggers the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (CEAA)*, and makes Parks Canada a Responsible Authority for this project.

The CEAA *Exclusion List Regulations* define projects or classes of projects for which an environmental assessment is not required. Schedule II of the regulation lists the types of projects in National Historic Parks, National Park Reserves, National Historic Sites and Historic Canals which can be excluded. Repair and operation of buildings is not listed in the regulation. An environmental assessment was therefor prepared.

Building repair and operation is not a project type listed in the *Comprehensive Study List Regulations* of the CEAA. A screening was therefore conducted for this project. The results of the environmental assessment are presented in this screening report.

### 1.1 Project Location

North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site is located on British Columbia's central coast approximately 15 kilometres southeast of the City of Prince Rupert (Figure 1) within the District of Port Edward (54.2333° N, 130.3000° W). The cannery sits on north shore of Inverness Passage, one of 3 main channels at the mouth of the Skeena River. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century 8 canneries operated in this section of the Lower Skeena River (Figure 2).

### 1.2 Project Description

A Conservation and Protection Report for North Pacific Cannery was completed in 1999. It outlines a 5 year program of building intervention and rehabilitation to conserve key historic resources on the site. The Report describes the cannery in the following way:



Figure 1  
Portion of National Topographic System 1:50000 scale map sheet 103J/1 (Port Edward, Edition 3) showing location of North Pacific Cannery on north shore of Inverness Passage within District of Port Edward.

“The North Pacific Cannery is situated on an 18-hectare site pressed between the waters of Inverness Passage and the steep slopes of the mountains behind. The main line of the Canadian National Railway bisects the site passing within a few feet of some the main buildings. As seen today the site consists of 21 primary buildings laid out in a linear pattern along the shoreline. A boardwalk functions as the main street, linking work and living areas in a village-like grouping. Many of the buildings are built on pilings out over the high tide line. The main cannery building is constructed of a squared-timber frame. The service and residential buildings are constructed with a lighter, milled lumber frame. All buildings feature gable roofs and wood siding painted white with green trim. This uniformity of materials, colour and form give the site a visual coherence despite the fact that the site was expanded and altered over a period of 70 years.”

### 1.2.1 Scope of Project

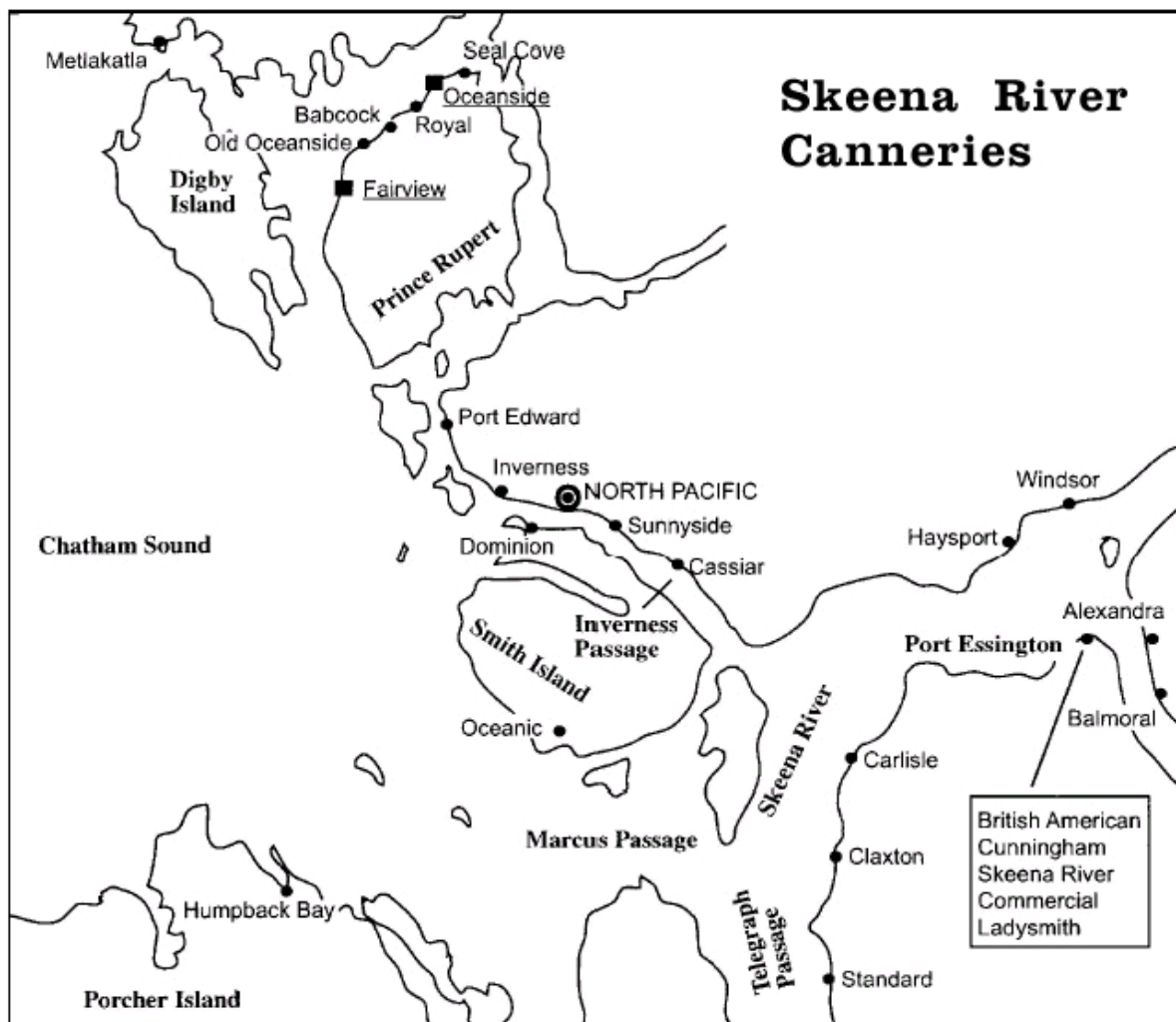


Figure 2  
Regional context of North Pacific Cannery

The principal undertaking is the repair and operation of surviving historical cannery buildings. Over the years many cannery facilities have been relocated or collapsed and been removed from the site. With the exception of First Nations housing and floating dock, the intent of the proposed work is to stabilize existing buildings, not to re-install or reconstruct former facilities. The Site Plan in [Figure 3](#) depicts the present configuration of buildings and structures at North Pacific Cannery. For a more detailed site plan please refer to [Appendix 3](#). The location and configuration of the proposed float and dock as well as First Nations housing are shown on the detailed site plan in Appendix 3.

Since acquiring the cannery, the North Pacific Cannery Village Museum Society, converted the 1960 Bunkhouse into a 12 room Bed & Breakfast, and the original mess hall into the Inverness Café food concession. Laundry and washroom facilities are available for registered guests or visitors. Several cannery residences formerly occupied by managers and workers are now used as living quarters for present day site staff. Following completion of stabilization and conservation work, facility operations will be restricted to guided and unguided touring of the cannery and not include actual cannery activities. Visitors will be educated about the cannery by use of guides, and static educational displays.

Stabilization work will undertaken in a variety of ways including: contractors; volunteers; and by use of employment programs sponsored by Human Resource Development Canada and others.

### 1.2.2 Scope of Work

Conservation work proposed for individual cannery facilities is summarised here. Please consult the Conservation and Presentation Report for detailed background information on each structure.

#### Main Cannery Building

- < Repair and replace piles and bases as required
- < Repair and paint siding, windows and exterior doors.
- < Replace remaining 20,000 square feet of older roof.

#### Reduction Building

- < Replace and repair piles, pile caps and associated structural members as required.

#### Working Dock

- < Drive fender piles along the perimeter as required.
- < Replace perimeter caps as required
- < Reconnect and tighten all perimeter braces and connectors.



Photo 1  
View of main cannery building and reduction plant building from SE at low tide. 21 February 2000



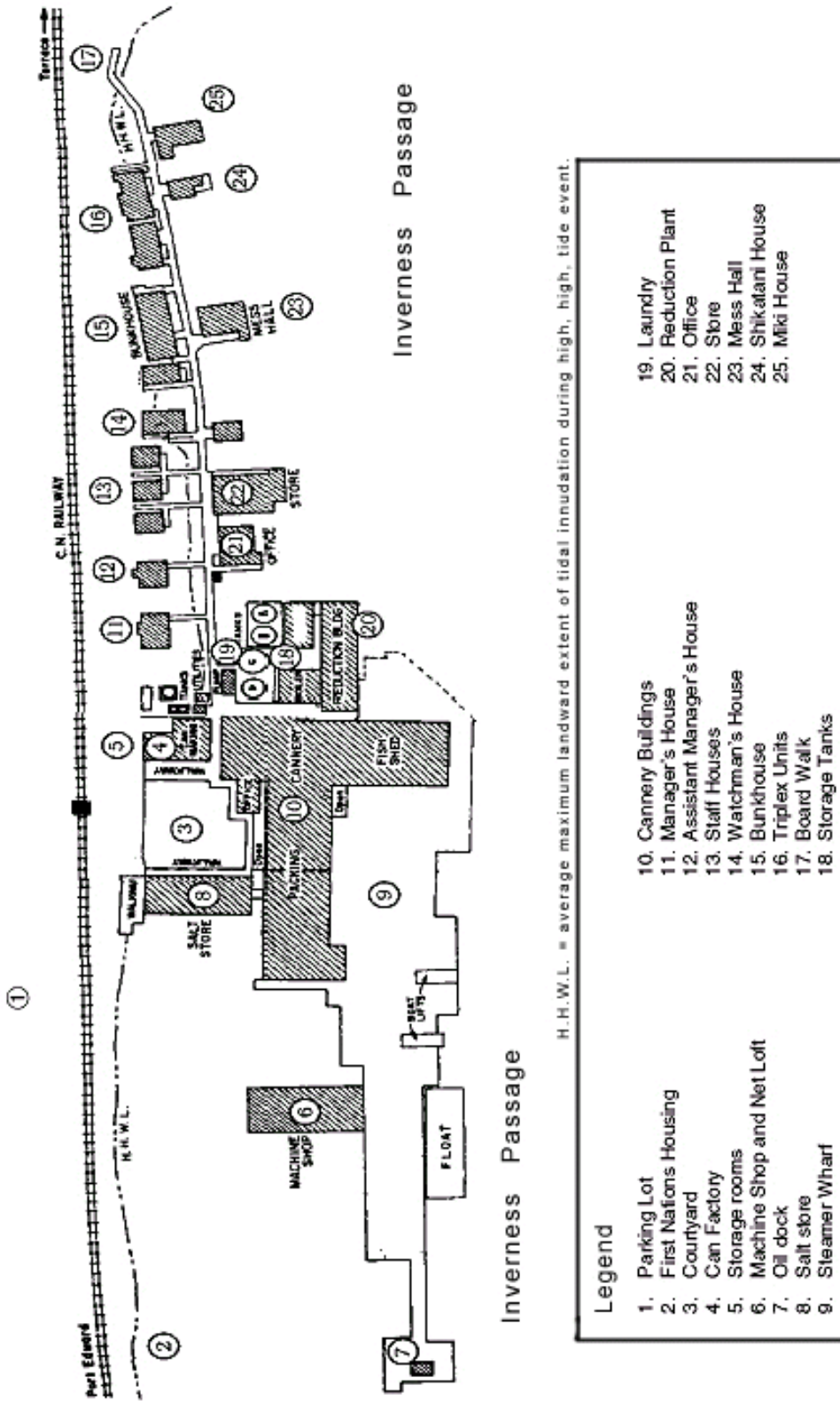


Figure 3  
 North Pacific Cannery Site Plan.  
 (Adapted from: Commemorative Integrity Statement, North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site).

**Floats and Docks**

- < Construct 600 lineal feet of floating dock to provide direct site access from water. Access to floats and docks to be located between the mess house and the Shikitani house as they appear in historic photographs of the 1940s.
- < Position and secure the floats with driven piles and anchors.

**Water Tank G**

- < Replace piles as required.
- < Replace stringers as required.

**Machine Shop and Net Loft**

- < Replace piles and repair pile caps as required.
- < Repair exterior sheathing materials with materials in kind
- < Add a skirting board along the base of the building to protect tops of pilings from water seeping in.
- < Construct a new entrance and stairs from the second storey net loft if required.
- < Replace roofing with materials in kind.
- < Repair windows and exterior doors as required.

**Boardwalk**

- < Replace piles, girders, joists and decking with materials-in-kind as required.
- < Implement a system of cross-bracing for the piles if required to ensure the long term stability of the structure.
- < Modify those construction details that have led to premature deterioration of material in a manner that will extend the useful life of the boardwalk without changing its historic character.
- < Design and construct a hand rail system that meets public safety requirements and has minimal impact on the historic character of the site.

**Lineman's House**

- < Replace roof with materials in kind;
- < Repair and paint windows and exterior doors
- < Repair and paint siding
- < Replace piles and caps as required and raise house to level
- < Repair interior doors , trim, walls and floors

**Japanese Bunkhouse**

## Phase 1:

- < Replace piles and bases as required
- < Replace the roof with materials in kind.
- < Repair and paint siding, and sister studs as required
- < Repair and paint windows and exterior doors.

## Phase 2:

- < Repair interior doors and trim

- < Repair and resurface walls, ceilings and floors.

### Triplex Units (two)

- < Replace roof with materials in kind
- < Repair piles and caps as required
- < Repair windows and exterior doors
- < Repair and paint siding.

### First Nations Housing Units: Conservation and Presentation Project

- < A more detailed condition assessment of the housing units should be undertaken to determine the feasibility of relocating and conserving some or all of these units
- < Relocation to the North Pacific Cannery and stabilization of the units. Further work will be delayed until priority conservation issues at the site have been dealt with or an opportunity arises to develop the site with an external partner(s).
- < Archaeological excavation to plot the location of the original pilings and to evaluate archaeological remains in any areas to be disturbed. (This work is currently underway)
- < Conservation of building units with similar replacement materials.
- < Construction of boardwalk to link the village to the cannery complex.



Photo 2  
First Nations housing at North Pacific Cannery, 1970s. (Gladys Blyth photo.)

The majority of pile work will involve replacing unsound piles with new piles or pile stubs. Appendix 1 of the Conservation and Presentation Report provides a detailed description of the current methods used at the cannery to replace unsound piles,

*"The site has a good system at present for replacing the piles...The current method is to plumb down from the original drift pin or from traces on the underside of the pile cap. This locates the base of the original pile. A hole is dug till they find the original pile and then they cut it off flush and straight and drill it to accept a pin. The new pile is drilled to accept the pin and the new pile is placed on top of the original and stood up....At the joint between the original pile and the new pile a collar of concrete is poured 24" - 30" square and about 10" thick....The concrete should also contain some epoxy coated rebar."*

A limited amount of pile driving will be undertaken during this project. Driven piles are needed in 2 or possibly 3 locations:

1. Fender piles along outer perimeter of Working Dock,
2. Anchors for the floating dock,
3. Possible installation of First Nations housing units and connecting boardwalk.

The number of piles required for the First nation housing sub-project is undetermined at this

time. Further assessment and planning is required to determine the feasibility of re-establishing a small complex of First Nations housing units that are representative of the cannery history. Part of the assessment will involve determining if the housing units will be placed in their former location over the water and supported on piles or in an upland location on a grade elevation foundation.

### 1.2.3 Scope of Assessment

The environmental assessment considered the environmental effects of repair and operation of the north pacific cannery as a national historic site and tourist destination. Factors included in the assessment:

- C environmental effects of malfunctions or accidents that may occur in connection with the project;
- C any cumulative environmental effects that are likely to result from the project in combination with other projects or activities that have been or will be carried out;
- C the significance of the environmental effects;
- C public comments;
- C technically and economically feasible measures that would mitigate any significant adverse environmental effects of the project;
- C the impact of the project on cultural resources.

### 1.2.4 Project Schedule

Conservation and stabilization work is scheduled to begin Autumn 2000 with expected completion approximately 4 years later. Detailed scheduling of individual projects has yet to be developed.

## 2.0 BIOPHYSICAL SYNOPSIS

### 2.1 General Characteristics

North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site is located in the Hecate Lowland on the central coast of British Columbia within the Coastal Western Hemlock (CWH) biogeoclimatic zone. One subzone, Very Wet Hypermaritime (CWHvh), is present in this section of coast. Climate of the area is characterized by cool temperatures, mild winters with minimal snow fall and ground freezing, and large amounts of rain and fog year round. Predominant tree species are western red cedar, yellow cedar, western hemlock, shore pine, Sitka spruce and red alder. Wildlife species that make heavy use of the seashore - forest ecotone include Black Bear (*Ursus*

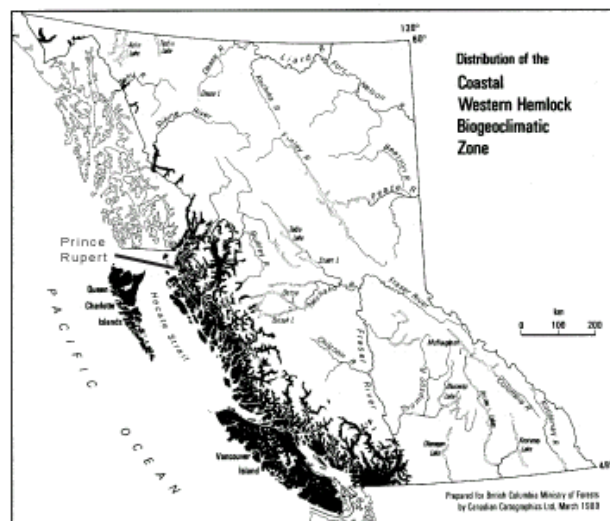


Figure 4  
Coastal Western Hemlock Zone  
Source: Ecosystems of British Columbia, 1991.

*americanus*), River Otter, Mink, and Bald Eagle. Older seral stages of forest provide nesting habitat for Bald eagle, Marbled Murrelet, and other seabird species. The British Columbia Conservation Data Centre (CDC) Rare Vascular Plant Tracking List for the North Coast Forest Region is included as [Appendix 5](#).

Bedrock geology is the predominant physiographic feature of the north coast. It largely controls the structure and geomorphic processes in the region. The coast line is complex and features numerous fiords, inlets and islands. High wave energies develop in this section of coast from a combination of frequent cyclonic storms and exposed sites with large fetch. Energies are significantly lower in sheltered bays, inlets, passages, and the lee side of islands.

The Skeena River watershed is one of the largest on the North American west coast. Lower reaches of the river and the estuary support fish and wildlife populations of provincial significance. The Canadian Wildlife Service classifies the lower Skeena River as critical waterfowl habitat for British Columbia. It provides important habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl populations (Personal communication - Andrew Robinson, Canadian Wildlife Service). Provincially red and blue listed species are regularly observed in the Skeena estuary. These include: Western Grebe (Red); Trumpeter Swan, Surf Scoter, Great Blue Heron, and Oldsquaw (blue). The complete Rare Vertebrate Animal Tracking List for the North Coast Forest District is included as [Appendix 4](#). Large numbers of Northern Sea Lion and Harbour Seal congregate during Eulachon runs.

The Skeena supports some of the healthiest fish populations on the west coast and has highly productive salmon runs second only to the Fraser River in volume. Mean annual escapement values for Skeena salmon are: Sockeye (1,178,945); Coho (42,642); Pink (2,039,446); Chum (26,556); Chinook (44,272); for a total mean escapement of 3,331,861. The lower Skeena has a highly developed flood plain. Commercial salmon fisheries are in place and key to the local and regional economy. A highly developed recreational sport fishery is also present. Commercial shellfish and crab fisheries operate in the region. Non salmonid species reported from the Skeena River estuary include Eulachon (*Thaleichthys pacificus*), green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*), longfin smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*), Pacific Staghorn Sculpin (*Leptocottus armatus*), and starry flounder (*Platichthys stellatus*).

Eulachon harvesting is a traditional First Nations activity that remains an important part of life to the present. The Department of Fisheries and Oceans does not regulate the eulachon harvest on the Skeena River. Eulachon spawning occurs at night during the spring freshet, from early to late March in the Prince Rupert area. Spawning normally occurs no further upriver than the extent of tidal influence. Eggs adhere to available substrate and incubate for 3 - 4 weeks. Emerging larvae float downstream to reside in the estuary until they reach adequate size to enable migration to marine environments.

## **2.2 North Pacific Cannery Site Characteristics**

North Pacific Cannery facilities lie in a linear configuration from WNW to ESE. They occupy a narrow coastal strip of relatively flat topography with a sw aspect. The majority of facilities, and all large facilities, such as the main cannery, are built on wooden piles over the water.



Photo 3  
Extent of intertidal habitat exposed during low tide 21 February 2000. Mess Hall in centre foreground, Bunkhouse behind.

cannery. Although the rail line was completed in 1914, boat travel on the Skeena River was the main means of access until construction of the Port Edward road in the 1950's. The main access road from the community of Port Edward lies parallel to the rail line and approximately 40 metres further inland. Construction of the railbed resulted in placement of riprap and infilling of the near shore native near shore habitat in some sections of Inverness Passage.

Existing cannery facilities are shown on the site plan (Figure 3) or detailed site plan (Appendix 3). A total of 25 facilities remain standing today. Many more facilities have been demolished, collapsed, or relocated in the more than 100 years since the cannery was established. Former use of the site as a fish cannery and reduction plant have highly modified the site from natural conditions. Placement of buildings and other structures in the intertidal zone has limited the amount of light reaching the benthic substrate. This appears to have restricted development of emergent macrophytes beneath these structures, particularly those such as the main cannery where very little light infiltration occurs. Seaweed and invertebrate intertidal colonization levels were very low during February 20-21 field visit (Photo 4). The population of these species varies markedly throughout the year in temperate coastal ecosystems. It is therefore difficult to ascribe the paucity of species and

The high, high, tide line is marked on the site plan (Figure 3). At high tide the area beneath all structures that extend below the boardwalk is inundated. During a typical low tide intertidal habitat beneath all structures is exposed (Photos 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7). Timber frame buildings up slope of the boardwalk, (e.g. Manager's House), are above the high tide line.

A single CN Railway line traverses the site approximately 10 metres north of the most landward of the site buildings. A short gravel access road leads from the Port Edward highway to an informal gravel parking lot at the



Photo 4  
Middle intertidal zone benthic substrate beneath north pacific cannery mess hall. 21 February 2000



Photo 5  
Upper intertidal habitat. Note wooden skirt on boardwalk. L to R Lineman's House, Two Storey Bunkhouse (Bed & Breakfast), portion of Mess Hall. Intertidal type 2 present here.  
21 February 2000

individuals to any one cause including low light or low salinity. A site assessment in July during more productive times may show a much more robust and diverse intertidal flora and fauna. Cannery piles and other wooden structural members within the intertidal has increased the amount of substrate available for colonization by sessile organisms such as mussels and barnacles

Inverness Passage has limited fetch and hence limited wave exposure. The site has significant riverine and marine influences. A strong current (est. 4 knots) was flowing SE in Inverness Passage during the February 21, 2000

site visit. Salinity levels in Inverness Passage would be expected to be relatively low compared to offshore marine environments due to the large volume of freshwater the Skeena River discharges. No salinity or conductivity measurements were taken during the February 20-21 site visits but observations indicate a saline environment and corresponding colonization by marine species, e.g. barnacles, mussels, rockweed. This indicates salinity levels are high enough to support some marine species.

A rapid assessment of the intertidal zone at the North Pacific Cannery was conducted during a morning low tide February 21, 2000. No field measurements were undertaken. All distances, percentages and other figures reported here are estimates based upon field observations at the site recorded onto a scale site plan.

The exposed intertidal area has an average width of 40 metres and slope of 5 degrees. The furthest landward margin is marked by rip rap boulders or wooden skirt fencing on the boardwalk as shown in Photo 5.



Photo 6  
View of North Pacific Cannery facilities from SE during low tide. Japanese Bunkhouse (Miki House) in foreground. Intertidal types 1 and 2 are present here.  
21 February 2000

Three types of intertidal environment are present.

- 1 mud with fucus encrusted boulders
- 2 pebble/cobble with fucus encrusted boulders
- 3 clay with sedge hummocks

Lowest is a muddy beach with fucus encrusted boulders. The slope is less steep and only sparsely populated with boulders on the western portion of the site near the machine shop as shown in Photo 7. In the remaining portions of the site, fucus boulders cover approximately 35 percent of the mud substrate in the lower section of beach.

The flat intertidal area north of the existing Machine Shed and Net Loft formerly featured a Chinese Bunkhouse, and a large “Indian Village” which provided housing for seasonal First Nations cannery workers. The work outlined in the Conservation and Presentation Report does not attempt to reconstruct these and other features of the cannery that are no longer present. The restoration of the cannery will therefore produce a facility footprint significantly smaller than the cannery during most of its operational life. Type 3 intertidal community, clay with sedge covered hummocks, starts at the western side of the saltshed, extends past the machine shed and beyond further upper Inverness Passage.



Photo 7  
Tidal flat at NW end of extant cannery facilities during low tide 21 February 2000. Machine Shed and Netloft in foreground, Saltshed and Packing Plant behind. All 3 types of intertidal communities are present here.

The following intertidal species were observed during the visit:

barnacle (*Balanus glandula*), limpet (), shore crab (*Hemigrapsus* sp.), blue mussel (*Mytilus edulis*), whelk (*Nucella* sp.), rockweed (*Fucus* sp.), *Enteromorpha intestinalis*, slough sedge (*Carex obnupta*).

No sea stars were observed in the portions of the site with rocky intertidal habitat. This is not unexpected given the likelihood of low salinity due to Skeena River freshwater inputs. Sea stars cannot maintain adequate internal salt concentration in low salinity environments. The number of species and individuals observed was uniformly low. *Fucus* was the predominant seaweed throughout the site at all elevations within the intertidal. *Enteromorpha* was sporadic throughout the upper intertidal. A small patch is visible in the lower left portion of Photo 5. As mentioned previously, species abundance and diversity would likely have been significantly higher if the assessment was conducted during the summer.

Wildlife species observed during the site visit include: Common Raven, Northwestern Crow, Double-crested Cormorant. Opportunistic wildlife observations by the resident maintenance



manager at the cannery include: Grey Wolf, River Otter, moose, bald eagle, gull, rock dove, rats, mice, and deer. No species from the CDC tracking lists were observed during the assessment.

Surface and near surface drainage characteristics in the North Pacific Cannery foreshore are highly variable. Groundwater elevation, flow direction and gradient vary with diurnal and seasonal tidal changes as well as Skeena River runoff volumes. Despite regular tidal inundation, net groundwater flow is downslope into the Skeena River. The nearest location with tidal information is Port Edward (54.2333° N, 130.3000° W) with a mean tidal range of approximately seven metres (23 feet). Nearby Prince Rupert has the highest recorded mean tidal range on the BC coast at 8.4 metres. Tidal ranges decrease as you travel south from the north coast towards Vancouver.

Mount MacDonald, a 760 metre (2500 feet) high summit, lies approximately 1.2 km north of the cannery. Steep heavily forested mountain slopes lead to the summit begin directly behind the foreshore area at the cannery. Forest vegetation is mature and average slope is 39 degrees. Mass wasting potential appears low given the current advanced seral state of the forest despite the steep slopes and wet climate in the area. Western hemlock communities dominate these forests. Establishment and operation of the rail line, highway, and cannery have resulted in removal of most of the shoreline forest that predominates in adjacent undeveloped portions of Inverness Passage.

A small unnamed creek empties into Inverness Passage about 80 metres south southeast of the Miki House. It drains a small watershed on the southeast slopes of Mount MacDonald. This creek is presently used as a freshwater supply for the cannery.

### **3.0 IMPACT IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS**

This section of the screening report lists the probable environmental impacts from various project components followed by mitigative measures.

#### **3.1 Piling Replacement**

##### **Impacts**

Minor excavation is required to replace rotted piles or install pile stubs. Given extensive former use of the site as a cannery, contamination of sediments is likely. Inputs of oil, grease, lead from lead paint and other sources, are common during cannery operation and maintenance. The degree to which contaminants deposited into surface sediments remain in situ depends on many factors including: physical and chemical nature of the sediments, exposure of sediments to flushing flows and sediment re-suspension and movement out of the area. Disturbance of contaminated sediments may lead to resuspension of contaminants and attendant impacts on benthic organisms and those dependant upon them. Quality of the sediment beneath the cannery is unknown.

Ecological effects upon colonial sessile organisms such as mussels, will be minor in spatial scale and short lived. Casual observations during the February 2000 site assessment indicated low to very low invertebrate colonization of pilings and other wooden members in

the intertidal zone. Removal of rotten timbers is therefore not expected to significantly impact these populations. Rapid re-colonization of new piles by invertebrate larvae is expected.

Background levels of dissolved and suspended sediment in Inverness Passage appears to be fairly high based upon field observation in February 2000. The small volume of sediment that may be re-suspended from excavation and backfilling activities is not expected to significantly impact species that reside or make use of the near shore habitats. This will not negatively impact salmonoids or eulachons. The project will not result in changes in water temperature, nutrient loading, sediment loading, water flow rates or water levels. No alteration of flow or discharge patterns in Inverness passage will occur. As a result no changes in beach forming processes (erosion or accretion) are expected. Similarly no impacts to navigability in the Inverness Passage are expected.

Fertilized eulachon and salmon eggs are negatively impacted by exposure to silt and other sediments. Once eggs are coated with silt they can no longer adhere to substrates and are swept downstream. Silt coating also restricts oxygen availability to incubating embryos. This results in reduced egg viability and often increased mortality. Since eulachon spawn in estuarine waters, they are particularly vulnerable to sediment inputs in the lower Skeena. Most salmonids spawn considerable distances upstream in freshwater environments so are less at risk of spawning mortality from sediments in the rivers lower reaches and estuary.

Use of wet cement mixes may negatively impact water quality and lower pH. Placement of treated replacement piles may lead to leaching of toxins into the receiving environment. No permanent modification of the water table or surface drainage characteristics will occur. Treated and untreated wood replacement piles will be installed to maintain heritage fabric continuity in the historical structures. Use of steel and concrete piles would reduce the commemorative integrity of the structures.

Access to the work sites beneath the cannery will not significantly impact the intertidal habitat and sessile species present. The intertidal area beneath the facilities is heavily armoured with cobble and boulders. Muddy substrate becomes more prevalent at the lower margin of some structures. Only limited travel will be required through these substrates to undertake replacement/stabilization of outer pilings.

#### Mitigative Measures

- C potential for project activities to generate sediments in the water column can be minimised by adherence to standard construction practices and mitigative measures for in-stream work.
- C Waste piles and other structural members will be removed from the intertidal area beneath the cannery and disposed of at a licensed landfill facility.
- C Areal extent and depth of excavation will be limited to surface layers of substrate.
- C Excavation, pile installation and back filling will be done during a single low tide event and completed before the area is flooded on the next rising tide. Excavation impacts will be limited due to the shallow nature and limited volume of materials involved;
- C use of hand tools to undertake the work; and rapid backfilling of the excavation.
- C Cement footings will be poured only where there is adequate time for curing prior to

- re-wetting by the next rising tide.
- C Promoters may be used to increase the speed of curing.
- C Raw cement materials must be stockpiled in a dry upland location where accidental spillage of product will not enter the a watercourse or the intertidal zone.
- C Mixing of cement should be done in a location and manner that restricts the opportunity for wet cement to enter the receiving environment.
- C Cement volumes required should be carefully estimated prior to mixing to avoid production of excess wet cement.
- C Tools and materials coated with wet cement will not be washed or cleaned in a location where washwater flows directly into the receiving environment.
- C Treated wood piles must be allowed adequate time to dry prior to installation. Creosote timbers should be allowed to dry a minimum of 45 days after treatment to allow volatiles to evaporate before being installed.
- C creosote treated timbers should receive the minimum level treatment (retention) recommended for the installation environment.
- C Excess treatment chemical must be removed from the surface of timbers prior to installation.
- C all in-stream work within the wetted margin of the North Pacific Cannery foreshore is prohibited during spawning runs of eulachon or other fish species.
- C avoid preservative treatment of cut timbers in locations where spillage may enter the water or intertidal habitat.
- C minimise amount of on-site treatment needed by pre-ordering timbers cut to size.

### 3.2 Pile Driving, Float Dock Construction

#### Impacts

A limited amount of pile driving is required for anchoring of the dock and float; installation of fender piles along outside perimeter of the wharf, and possibly for foundations for First Nations Housing units and boardwalk. Piled structures restrict the amount of ambient light entering the water column. This decreases biological productivity in these areas. Wood preservatives leach from wooden piles into the receiving environment. Creosote piles leach polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH). Studies have shown these substances can accumulate in invertebrates or reside in sediments for extended periods of time.

Noise and percussive impacts from operating pile driving machinery may displace fish and wildlife from the area for short periods of time. Repeated displacement may lead to abandonment of preferred feeding, roosting or nesting habitat. Pile



Photo 8  
View towards Inverness Passage from below wharf during low tide. Note sparse invertebrate colonization of pilings and reduced ambient light levels. 21 February 2000

driving noise may decrease the quality of visitor experience for persons touring the cannery.

#### Mitigative Measures

- C the dock and float will be orientated in a north-south direction. This will maximize the amount of light reaching into the water column and benthic substrate beneath these structures.
- C the facility will be constructed in the footprint of the former dock and float thereby decreasing the impact upon intertidal communities.
- C schedule pile driving activities for times that avoid key life cycle stages of fish and wildlife (e.g. spawning fish, staging waterfowl during migration).

### 3.3 Construction Activities

#### Impacts

Use of portable generators, power tools and other equipment may generate significant noise which can disturb wildlife and visitors. Refuelling of portable generators and other petroleum powered equipment may result in accidental spillage of these products into the receiving environment. Significant amounts of dimensional lumber and other trade wastes will be generated during construction.

#### Mitigative Measures

- C impacts of construction activities on wildlife and visitors will be minimised by careful planning and scheduling. Activities with high potential to disturb wildlife and visitors will not take place during key life stages (i.e. spawning, nesting) or during peak visitation by tourists.
- C Treated wood waste must not be burned on site and must be disposed off at a landfill facility licensed to receive these materials.
- C Fuelling of equipment such as portable generators will be conducted in a manner which restricts the potential release of petroleum products into a watercourse, or the receiving environment. A spill contingency response capability including an adequate amount of sorbent material and berming devices to contain the volume of stored fuel will be available on site
- C Treated wood waste must not be burned on site and must be disposed off at a landfill facility licensed to receive these materials;
- C all other construction wastes not appropriate for re-use must be disposed of at an approved landfill site. On-site burning of non-wood wastes is prohibited;
- C building materials should be staged or stockpiled on a previously disturbed area such as the gravel parking lot.

### 3.4 Paints, Stains and Solvents

#### Impacts

Paint stripping and application may negatively impact the Skeena River. Cannery facilities are mostly located directly over the intertidal foreshore. Given the impervious nature of the flooring in many facilities, accidental spillage of paint, stain, or other organic solvents may result in direct input of these toxins into the river or foreshore. Given the age of the cannery buildings it is likely many have been covered in paints with lead content. Exterior paint was noted to be in poor condition on many facilities during the February 2000 site assessment.

Paint scraping or sanding during surface preparation may result in lead paint chips entering the intertidal zone and leaching of lead into receiving waters. Salmonids and other aquatic organisms are highly sensitive to contaminants such as lead paint chips, new uncured paints and solvents. Water quality degradation from addition of contaminants can impact all life stages of these species. Exposure to heavy metal (lead) contaminants and organic compounds (paints and solvents) may kill fish or produce sublethal effects such as reduced stamina, growth and reproductive rates. Frequent exposure to lead and other persistent compounds is likely to increase tissue contaminant levels in fish via bioconcentration.

### Mitigative Measures

#### Paint Removal

- C paint chips from cannery facilities should be tested for lead paint content prior to surface preparation activities. If high lead content is found the following mitigative measures should be adhered to:
- C no power sanding, sandblasting or other abrasive methods will be used to remove paint.
- C lead paint removal will be conducted using hand tools to allow maximum control and recovery of paint particles.
- C if paint sample analysis indicates paint flakes are likely to be “leachable” wastes as defined in the Special Waste Regulations of the BC Waste Management Act based upon their soluble metals content, all captured paint flakes will be transported and disposed of in accordance with this legislation.
- C if pressure washing is used during surface preparation, the impact on the receiving environment will be minimised by use of low water pressure and minimum water volume with no additives.
- C impermeable drape tarps will be placed to capture all paint chips and pressure wash water. These materials will be disposed of in accordance with the Special Waste Regulations of the BC Waste Management Act.
- C paint removal activities will be suspended when wind conditions preclude effective capture of paint flakes.
- C contractors and their employees will be advised of applicable health and safety standards for this type of work as outlined in the Workers’ Compensation Board Industrial Health and Safety Regulations.
- C impacts of paint removal and reapplications will be mitigated employing techniques as described in Fisheries and Oceans Technical Report No.1692 *“Guidelines for the Protection of Fish and Fish Habitat During Bridge Maintenance Operations in British Columbia”*.

#### Paint Application

- C products should not be mixed, loaded into application equipment or stored where spillage or leakage may enter storm drains or water bodies.
- C all transfer of paint and stain from storage and mixing containers into application devices shall be conducted in a location that minimises the risks of accidentally spilled product entering the river.
- C do not place, store or wash out applicators (sprayers, brushes, rollers), protective clothing or drip tarpaulins in or near water bodies.
- C product mixing should be done in oversized containers to prevent accidental spillage

- or splashing.
- C secondary containment vessels with a capacity of 120% of the primary container housing the product must be used for all storage, transfer or application of product. This will provide adequate containment volume in the event of accidental spillage. Where feasible spilled product must be recovered and returned to it's original container. Impervious drip tarpaulins may be used as an alternative means of spill containment during product application.
- C in areas where decking has been removed it must be replaced or a drip tarpaulin which extends beyond the immediate application area must be used to prevent direct entry of paint, stain or other toxic products into the intertidal zone beneath the cannery.
- C workers will carry minimum quantities of paint, stain or solvent in the work area.
- C spray equipment must be adjusted to minimise spray drift and in good working order to avoid accidental spraying or leakage.
- C do not dispose of spray equipment rinsate or left over product in a manner which may contaminate domestic water supply or fish bearing waters.
- C dispose of product containers and wastes (paint, stain, solvent solution) in accordance with applicable federal, provincial and municipal legislation.
- C no disposal of waste paint, stain or solvent mixtures is permitted at the North Pacific Cannery.
- C cleaning of painting equipment will be conducted in a secure upland or other location which minimises the risk of paint and solvents entering the receiving environment.
- C contractor and sub-contractor staff must be trained in spill response and reporting procedures including containment methods.
- C a stockpile of spill containment and clean-up equipment must be available on-site to adequately handle potential spill volumes and types.

### 3.5 Socio-economic

#### Impacts

Stabilization and subsequent operation of the North Pacific Cannery is likely to have positive socio-economic effects. These will be largely centred on the immediate area around the cannery including the District of Port Edward and the City of Prince Rupert. Positive effects include increased opportunities for local employment during cannery stabilization as well as fulltime and seasonal work providing guided tours, restaurant, and bed& breakfast services during the operating season of the cannery museum. Negative socio-economic effects on the local First Nation fisheries and commercial fisheries are not expected from this project.

#### Mitigative Measures

- C Stabilization work will be undertaken using local expertise and workers wherever possible.
- C A large influx of workers from outside the region is not required to undertake the work. Significant negative socio-economic effects in the local area are therefor not expected.

## 4.0 RESIDUAL IMPACTS

Installation of the float/dock and First Nations Housing facilities are the main source of residual impacts from North Pacific Cannery stabilization. Installation of these facilities will result in development of approximately 700 m<sup>2</sup> of intertidal habitat. If the First Nations Housing is located in an upland site, intertidal habitat loss will be reduced to approximately 120 m<sup>2</sup>. Complete habitat loss will not occur. The predominant impact will be reduced light levels for macrophytes. Installation of piles and the float/dock is a positive residual impact. These structures will increase the amount of substrate available for invertebrate colonization.

## **5.0 CUMULATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS**

Cumulative environmental effects assessment is based on the concept that environmental effects of projects and activities may interact to generate impacts different than those of the individual undertakings. These interactions may occur over time and distance. Assessment techniques must therefore take into account temporal and geographic parameters, as well as probable interactions between the proposed project, and past and future projects.

Stabilization of existing facilities and addition of a dock float and First Nations Housing at the North Pacific Cannery is unlikely to generate significant environmental impacts. Former cannery sites in an adjacent to Inverness passage have been decommissioned over the years. This has decreased the cumulative effect of the cannery facilities in the local intertidal ecosystem. Cannery operations will not occur at the North Pacific Cannery. Site use will be restricted to interpretive touring of the site and associated support services such as accommodation and food services.

## **6.0 CONCLUSIONS**

Stabilization and operation of existing facilities at North Pacific Cannery is not likely to generate significant adverse environmental effects. The potential for environmental effects is limited as the project location is already highly modified from natural condition. No rare species or habitats were noted during a site visit on February 20-21, 2000. The intertidal footprint of the cannery will increase as much as 700 m<sup>2</sup> if the First Nations Housing units are installed in the foreshore. The maximum build proposed for the cannery is significantly less than the area it formerly occupied.

This project will result in no net loss of wetland function or loss of wetland area in keeping with The Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation. Most construction and operation impacts are avoidable given use of appropriate mitigative measures. In all instances the severity of unavoidable impacts can be minimised. No wetland compensation is therefore required for this project.

No significant cultural resources are expected to be encountered during the project. The archaeological assessment conducted by David Archer in February 2000 uncovered no evidence of prehistoric occupation of the area by First Nations groups. Present in situ historical resources include the extant cannery facilities as well as pile stubs and other

traces of demolished buildings. The potential for significant cultural resources being impacted is very low due to: limited areal extent and depth to be excavated; and the use of hand excavation techniques.

The potential adverse environmental effects of the project can be effectively mitigated. No significant cumulative environmental effects are associated with this project. Stabilization of North Pacific Cannery facilities will increase the commemorative integrity of the site. Contractors and other persons working on the project must be briefed on the importance of adhering to the mitigative measures in this screening report. All contract work should be closely supervised to ensure mitigations are followed.

## 7.0 AGENCIES AND INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED

The following were contacted regarding the proposed conservation of the North Pacific Cannery:

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## **APPENDIX 1**

### **Screening Form**

C.E.A.A. SCREENING #:		PARK SCREENING #:	
FIELD SITE: NORTH PACIFIC CANNERY NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE			
1. RA REFERENCE #:			
2. TITLE (english): Cannery Stabilization and Conservation			
3. TITLE (french): Rénovation d'une conserverie pour fin de préservation			
4. SUBJECT DESCRIPTOR (minimum of one):			
a) PARKS		b)	
c)		d)	
5. EA TYPE: SCREENING			
6. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY CODE: N/A			
7. PRIMARY UNDERTAKING (minimum of one):			
a) repair		b) construction	
c) operation		d)	
8. PHYSICAL WORK (english): Building			
9. PHYSICAL WORK (french): bâtiment			
10. EA START DATE (dd mm yyyy): 15 / 02 / 2000			
11. EA TRIGGER CODE: FUNDING			
12. GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION: JCMNI Inverness Passage / Coast / Between Smith Island and Tsimpsean Peninsula			
13. EA DETERMINATION: EFFECTS NOT LIKELY SIGNIFICANT			
14. DEADLINE FOR PUBLIC INPUT (if public component)(yy mm dd): N/A			
15. EA DETERMINATION DATE (dd mm yyyy): 15/ 05/ 2000			
16. ORGANIZATION: PARKS CANADA			
17. CONTACT PERSON FOR EA: STEVE OATES			
18. DOCUMENT REGISTER CONTACT: STEVE OATES			
19. FILE LOCATOR (file name & number):			
20. GENERAL COMMENTS:			

CEAA SCREENING #:	PARK SCREENING #:
PROJECT DESCRIPTION:	project involves stabilization of existing cannery facilities at North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site. Facilities operations will include, static self guided displays, guided tours. Concessions which will operate at the site include A restaurant, bed and breakfast and gift shop/store.
PROJECT MANAGER:	
NATURE & EXTENT OF ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS, INCLUDING CUMULATIVE EFFECTS:	
Adherence to mitigative measures will prevent adverse environmental effects No cumulative environmental effects are associated with this project	
MITIGATIVE MEASURES:	
Specific mitigative measures which address individual environmental effects are listed in the attached screening report.	
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:	
No adverse environmental effects are likely given adherence to mitigative measures	
PROJECT SURVEILLANCE: NO__X__ YES____ (attach details & schedule) RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	
FOLLOW-UP: NO__X__ YES____ (attach details & schedule) RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	
AGENCIES & INDIVIDUALS CONSULTED: See section 6.0 of attached screening report	
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS USED: See section 8.0 of attached screening report	
PUBLIC CONCERNS: N/A	
SCREENING DONE BY: Steve Oates	
DETERMINATION: Effects not likely significant	
SIGNATURE OF RCM:	
_____	_____
date	Superintendent - Richele Leonard

## **APPENDIX 2**

### **Commemorative Integrity Statement**

#### **North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site**



# Commemorative Integrity Statement



***North Pacific Cannery  
National Historic Site***

**North Pacific Cannery  
National Historic Site**

**Commemorative Integrity Statement**

**Approved:**

---

**Christina Cameron, Director General  
National Historic Sites Directorate**

---

**Richelle Leonard, Field Unit Superintendent  
Gwaii Haanas Field Unit**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Herb Pond', written over a horizontal line.

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**Herb Pond, Executive Director,  
North Pacific Cannery Village Museum**

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**SEPTEMBER 2000**

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*The resources that symbolize or represent the site's national historic significance are not impaired or under threat*

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### Front Cover Graphic Credits:

*From "Everlasting Memory - A Guide to North Pacific Cannery Village Museum"  
Workers at the North Pacific Cannery could get advances on their wages with coupons. These were issued in booklets and used in the company store like money.*

## **Preface**

---

This document comprises a Statement of Commemorative Integrity for the North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site. It defines the intent of the commemoration of this nationally-significant site, and identifies a range of heritage values pertaining to the site's protection and presentation, as well as objectives for the achievement of these values.

---

# Commemorative Integrity Statement

## *North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site*

### 1.0 Introduction

#### 1.1 National Historic Sites Objectives

National Historic Sites objectives for the North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site are summarized in the following statements from Parks Canada's Guiding Principles and Operational Policies (National Historic Sites Policy):

*“To foster knowledge and appreciation of Canada’s past through a national program of historical commemoration.”*

*“To ensure the commemorative integrity of national historic sites administered by Parks Canada by protecting and presenting them for the benefit, education, and enjoyment of this and future generations, in a manner that respects the significant and irreplaceable legacy represented by these places and their associated resources.”*

*“To encourage and support the protection and presentation by others of places of national historic significance that are not administered by Parks Canada.”*

#### 1.2 Definition and Purpose of Commemorative Integrity

"Commemorative integrity" is the realization of the commemorative intent for a national historic site. It defines the health or wholeness of the site, ensuring that the reasons for national designation are respected in all actions relating to the protection and presentation of such places. A site is said to possess commemorative integrity when:

- . the resources that symbolize its importance are not impaired or under threat;
- . the reasons for its significance are effectively communicated to the public;
- . the site’s heritage values are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site.

The purpose of this statement of commemorative integrity for the North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site is intended to use the three elements of commemorative integrity to:

- . focus the management of the site on what is most important;
- . ensure that there is a focus on the whole site not just its parts;
- . provide a statement of accountability; and
- . provide a basis for reporting to Canadians on the state of the site.

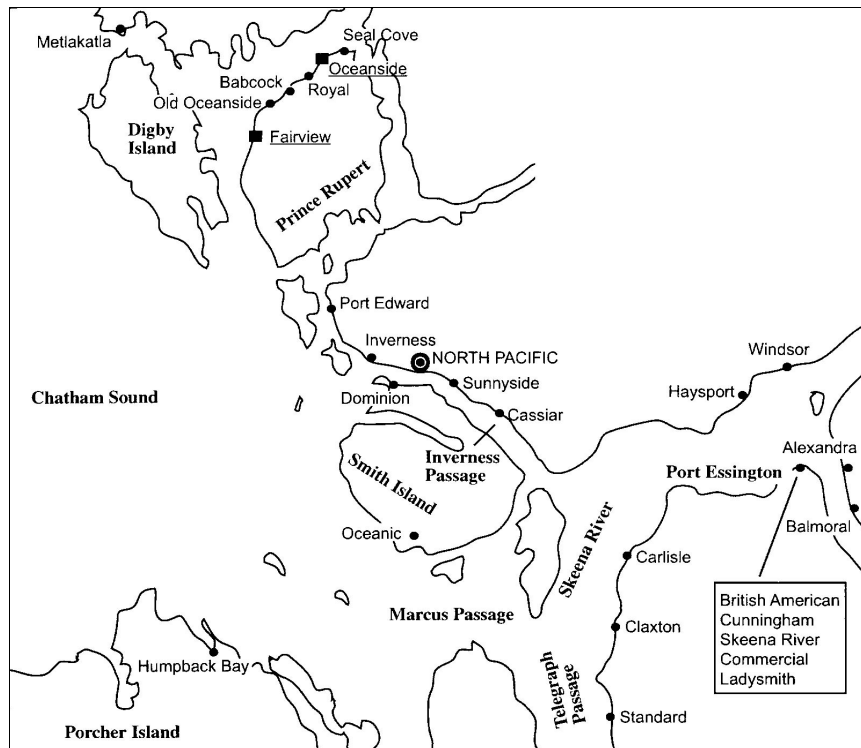
The following sections of this statement describe each of the elements of commemorative integrity. For each element there are statements of commemorative value and objectives for achieving the integrity of these values. The statements of value describe what must be protected and presented, and the statements of objectives provide targets against which the state of the site's commemorative integrity can be measured.

### **1.3 Historical and Geographical Contexts**

The North Pacific Cannery is located on the Inverness Passage in Port Edward Municipality, approximately 25 km. south of the City of Prince Rupert, British Columbia (Figure 1). It is the oldest surviving cannery building in British Columbia, and the focus of a well-preserved Cannery complex, with a range of buildings associated with various aspects of its history in the fishing industry over nearly 100 years (*Figure 2*).

The Inverness Passage is an extension of the Skeena River estuary running between the mainland and the north side of Smith Island. The estuary is particularly rich in salmon, as these species gather in these waters to adjust to fresh water before journeying up the Skeena and its tributaries to spawn. Competition between commercial fishing companies for this rich source of fish was intense, and five canneries were constructed along the Inverness Channel in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, along with ten others established at other locations in the estuary (*Figure 1*).

The Cannery was established in 1889 by the North Pacific Canning Company Ltd. This concern was led by John Carthew, an entrepreneur who selected a site on the Inverness Passage in 1888 and enlisted financial backing for building a cannery from several businessmen from Nanaimo. Arriving at the site with a crew of 12 men in early 1889, Carthew and his crew cleared brush, drove pilings into the channel, and erected the wharf and Cannery building. While modified considerably over the course of its history, this original building still stands at the site. The Cannery began to export its products in the first year, when it shipped 3880 cases of canned salmon to London, England. In 1891 the Cannery was sold to Henry Bell-Irving. Backed by British investors, Bell-Irving formed the Anglo-British Columbia Packing Company, which he managed from Vancouver.



**Figure 1: Regional Context of North Pacific Cannery NHS**

For more than 60 years the Cannery was devoted primarily to canning salmon. In addition, this complex also exemplified a number of other activities associated with the West Coast Fishing Industry. Between the 1890s and 1920, a cure plant was installed at which salmon were cured, brined, and barrelled. A cold storage plant was established in 1900, and was dismantled in 1954. A free oil production plant, which extracted the oil from salmon heads was operated in the early 1950s. The Cannery shipped the oil to the south, where it was added to sockeye salmon being canned at Rivers Inlet. In 1955 a reduction plant was established to reduce offal and whole herring, and was operated until the end of the herring reduction industry in 1968. The reduction plant was revived in 1972 and permanently closed in 1980.

Contrasting with the experience of canneries in southern British Columbia, the North Pacific Cannery exhibited many of the characteristics of North Coast canneries. In its initially isolated setting it was an operation requiring a high degree of economic and social self-sufficiency which was typical of the north coast canneries. The Cannery was planned and laid out to address its requirements of self-contained power plant, provisions, and accommodations for workers.

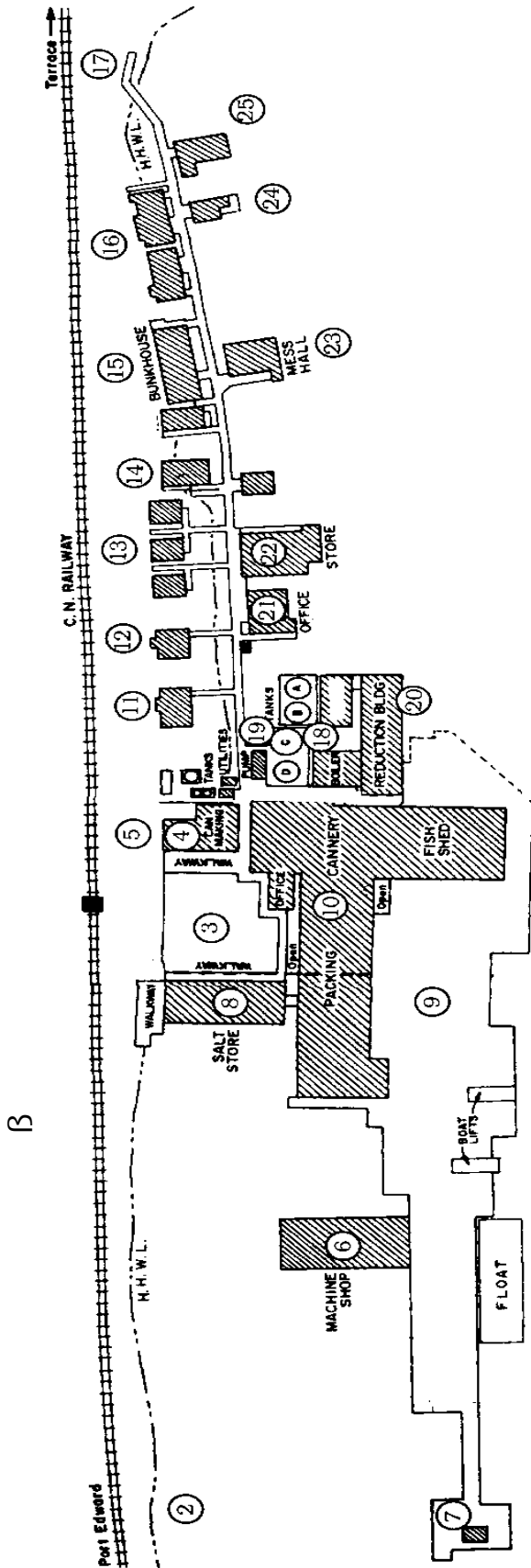


The isolation of the Cannery was much reduced with the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific rail line by the Cannery in 1914. It now had access to mail and supplies from the south on a regular basis, and the trains were used to ship some of the Cannery's salmon products, although the bulk of the shipments continued to be shipped via the coastal freighter traffic to Vancouver. The arrival of rail service had a significant impact on the workforce, as First Nations people from the interior communities of Hazelton, Skeena Crossing, Kitwanga, and Kispiox now travelled by rail to work at the Cannery.

As was the case with other canneries, the Cannery's workforce was multicultural. Chinese workers were recruited through Chinese contractors, or bosses. These workers were assigned work within the Cannery building, especially fish butchering. Japanese workers were engaged as fishermen and boat builders. The company arranged their services through three or four Japanese contractors, each of whom provided 10 to 15 boat crews. First Nations men were employed as fishermen, while the women worked on canning lines. Their services, too, were arranged through one or more First Nations contractors. Europeans held the managerial positions, as well as other roles within the Cannery.

The composition of the Cannery's work force changed over time. Initially, First Nations workers, drawn from various Tsimshian communities and other First Nations along the coast, comprised the largest single group. The company encouraged whole First Nations families to live at the Cannery, so that the women could be employed in various tasks, including making and repairing nets for the fishing fleet. After 1900, Japanese workers became more numerous in gillnet fishing. However, in 1923 discriminatory Fisheries regulations obliged west coast canneries to reduce the number of fishing licenses issued to Japanese fishermen, obliging a greater reliance on First Nations workers.

Housing for workers was segregated along ethnocultural lines. The dwellings of the Euro-Canadian Cannery manager and assistant manager were located immediately east of the industrial buildings, with housing for other Euro-Canadian workers ranged further to the east. At the end of this row, separate housing for Japanese workers was built. On the other side of the complex, smaller, more rudimentary dwellings were built for First Nations workers on both sides of a boardwalk stretching to the west of the wharf. Chinese workers were housed in a bunkhouse to the north of the main Cannery building. The cultural and gender segregation of the workforce was underscored early in the site's history, when in 1891 a land slide engulfed much of the First Nations housing while the male fishermen were out in their boats. First Nations people alone were represented in the casualties, as nine women and children lost their lives in this disaster.



- 1. Parking Lot
- 2. First Nations Housing
- 3. Courtyard
- 4. Can Factory
- 5. Storage rooms
- 6. Machine Shop and Net Loft
- 7. Oil dock
- 8. Salt store
- 9. Steamer Wharf

- 10. Cannery Buildings
- 11. Manager's House
- 12. Assistant Manager's House
- 13. Staff Houses
- 14. Watchman's House
- 15. Bunkhouse
- 16. Triplex Units
- 17. Board Walk
- 18. Storage Tanks

- 19. Laundry
- 20. Reduction Plant
- 21. Office
- 22. Store
- 23. Mess Hall
- 24. Shikatan House
- 25. Miki House

Figure 2: Plan of the North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site

The North Pacific Cannery evolved in relation to economic and technological changes in the fishing industry throughout its history. Initially built in the form of a rectangle, the main Cannery building housed a canning line of manual labouring activities, including hand butchering, weighing, filling of cans, and other functions. This building was extended by 18 feet in 1898, and a “fish house” addition extending out into the river was built in 1900, completing the “L” shape that has characterized West Coast canneries (*Figure 2*). The fish house was the area used for gutting the fish when first delivered to the Cannery. In the main wing a second canning line was added in 1908. Over the next 15 years these lines were mechanized with the introduction of fish butchering machines, which displaced most of the Chinese workers engaged in manual butchering activities. Other machines introduced in this period included two fish knives, two clinchers, two exhaust boxes, three double seamers, and a lacquer machine.

Soon after the First World War a can making factory was introduced to produce cans for the company’s five northern factories, which also displaced Chinese workers. By this date, 95 workers were employed within the Cannery complex itself. More than 75 of these were engaged in various aspects of butchering the fish, while most of the others were involved in cooking the cans and other functions. In 1937 a reform line was added, involving the reformation of cans manufactured in the south and shipped flat to the north. With the introduction of this technology, the costs of production were reduced. In consequence, the north coast canneries became more profitable and continued in operation longer than many southern counterparts.

## 2.0 Statement on Commemorative Intent

The reasons for the national historic significance of the North Pacific Cannery NHS are found in the officially-approved recommendations relating to its commemoration as a national historic site. They are based on the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada (HSMBC) discussions and recommendations for the site and approved plaque inscriptions where the inscription communicates the commemorative intent for the site.

In the case of the North Pacific Cannery, the initial commemoration of the Cannery derived initially from the HSMBC's recommendations regarding the commemoration of the West Coast Fishing Industry. In 1985, the Board recommended the following::

*North Pacific Cannery, Port Edward, British Columbia*

Following a lengthy discussion, the Board reaffirmed its earlier recommendations that the West Coast Fishing Industry is of national significance and should be commemorated in Steveston, historically the most important centre of that industry in British Columbia. Concerning the North Pacific Cannery itself, the Board recommended that:

*"the North Pacific Cannery is of national historic and architectural significance; however, as it was seen as a variation of the general theme to be interpreted at Steveston, as it had not been involved in the groundfish fishery, so important to the area's historical development, and as the native housing, an extremely important element in its history, had been lost Program involvement should be limited to commemoration by means of a plaque."*

In June 1988 the Board requested that the commemoration of the North Pacific Cannery be re-visited, and in November 1988, the Board made the following recommendation:

*North Pacific Cannery, Port Edward, British Columbia*

*Last June, the Board asked that the papers which had been considered in 1984 and 1985 be brought forward for re-examination and North Pacific Cannery, Port Edward, B.C. and North Pacific Cannery, Port Edward, British Columbia were provided to the members in response to that request.*

Recommendations:

*Following discussion of the two papers on the Cannery before the Board, Mr. G.B. Woolsey brought the members up to date on developments relative to the commemoration of the Banks Fisheries in Nova Scotia, the Newfoundland Fisheries, the Arctic Fishery, the in-shore fisheries in Quebec, the Great Lakes Fisheries and the West Coast Fisheries at Steveston, British Columbia.*

*With respect to the North Pacific Cannery, the Board reaffirmed that the Cannery was indeed of national significance; however, given the Program's current commitment to the commemoration of the Canadian Fishing Industry coupled with the fact that the Cannery continued to be seen as a variation of the general theme being interpreted at Steveston, the Board did not feel that Program involvement at Port Edward, beyond the level previously recommended, was called for.*

In 1992, the Board revised its earlier recommendations with the following recommendation:

*North Pacific Cannery, Port Edward, British Columbia*

*"The Board first reaffirmed its 1985 recommendation respecting the national significance of the North Pacific Cannery."*

Further, the Board recommended that:

*"once the priority projects currently before it have been dealt with, the Program should enter into discussions with the North Coast Maritime Museum Association and other interested parties with a view to contributing to the conservation of selected buildings on the North Pacific Cannery site which were associated with its workforce, examples being the workers' cottages."*

The plaque text to commemorate the West Coast Fishery, approved by the HSMBC and the Minister, and installed at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery NHS at Steveston, B.C., identifies a number of additional components associated with the commemoration of West Coast Fishing Industry.

**WEST COAST FISHERY**

*"For thousands of years the fishery has been vitally important to people on Canada's west coast. It provided food for Aboriginal peoples and is still an essential element of their culture. Commercial fishing began in the 1830s when the Hudson's Bay Company salted salmon for export in barrels. More efficient fishing methods, new canning and freezing technologies, and access to remote markets by ship and railway fostered an industry which has for generations employed men and women of many origins. The Gulf of Georgia Cannery, built in 1894, serves as a symbol of this history."*

In addition to the more general thematic elements of the commemoration, the plaque text approved for the North Pacific Cannery outlines specific components relating to the historical role of this particular site:

#### NORTH PACIFIC CANNERY

*Salmon canning stimulated economic development on this coast. North Pacific is the oldest West Coast cannery still standing. From here the Bell-Irving family shipped high quality salmon directly to England before 1900. Typical of most canneries in its isolation and operations, North Pacific relied more on native labour than those close to urban centres, was slower to adopt new technology, and had lower production costs. Ethnically-segregated living and work areas divided Chinese, Japanese, native and white labour. The main cannery structure, completed in 1895, remains essentially unaltered."*

APPROVED BY FULL BOARD

12 NOVEMBER, 1988

The details of this text provide a more complete basis for interpreting the HSMBC recommendations. It refers to the fact that the North Pacific "is the oldest West Coast cannery still standing," and that it is "typical of most canneries in its isolation and operations." Further noteworthy elements include its greater reliance on native labour than those close to urban centres, and the fact that its "ethnically-segregated living and work areas divided Chinese, Japanese, native and white labour." The last two elements refer to the 1992 recommendation regarding the conservation of selected buildings on the North Pacific Cannery site which were associated with its workforce, in particular, the workers' cottages. Further, the reference to the fact that the main cannery building, completed in 1895, supports the interpretation that the commemoration is based in part on the quality of the surviving *in-situ* cultural resources. These elements reinforce the original recommendation, which referred to the site's national historic and architectural significance. The specific elements, on the other hand, are brought out as key messages in the Second Element of Commemorative Integrity.

On the basis of the foregoing, the following draft statement on commemorative intent is recommended:

**The North Pacific Cannery is of national historic and architectural significance for its association with the West Coast Fishing Industry.**

## 3.0 Treatment of the Three Elements of Commemorative Integrity

### 3.1 First Element

*The resources that symbolize or represent the site's national historic significance are not impaired or under threat*

#### 3.1.1 Historic Place

##### Values

The historic place is the area encompassed by the commemoration, and includes the components within the site that relate directly to the reasons for its national historic significance. Spatially, the historic place is defined by the layout and forms of the Cannery complex, as laid out along the shore of the Inverness Passage. In legal terms, the site managed by the North Pacific Cannery is defined as Lot 37 Range 5, Coast District of the North Shore of Inverness Passage. To the north, the road defines the limits of the site actually managed by the Cannery Museum, while the Inverness Passage provides a defining boundary to the south. A further defining feature of the historic place is the railroad, whose establishment by the Grand Truck Pacific Railway enabled fish to be more readily exported to Canadian markets to the south.



**Figure 3:** *North Pacific Cannery during the 1940s. The buildings in front of the main cannery are the ice house and the old cold storage and reduction plants. These were replaced by the larger reduction plant. At right is the store with the office in the extension over the water. (NP photo, Ross Collection.)*

The siting and evolution of the site was to a large degree determined by the physical setting. Generally, the siting on the Skeena River estuary was determined by proximity to the “Glory Hole,” the turbulent waters to the east which are rich in fish. It was here that salmon gathered in the estuary to acclimatize themselves to fresh water and fry developed here into mature fish. The canneries of this area were ideally located to exploit this rich resource. As with other canneries, the North Pacific needed to be sited on a sheltered inlet; hence the decision to locate on the relatively tranquil waters of the Inverness Passage. Cultural resources associated with this larger area include a site on Smith Island across the passage, where winter storage areas were set up for floats and net racks for the Cannery. The pilings for these former features are still in evidence.

Regarding the Cannery proper, the nationally-significant attributes of the historic place consist of the surviving Level 1 cultural resources documenting the evolution of the complex of current and former buildings on the site between 1889 and 1981. Cultural resources associated with most of the canning and processing operations of the Cannery have survived. These include industrial buildings, dwellings, structures for commercial and office functions, and other structures essential to the operation of a cannery on British Columbia’s northern coast. Indeed, the survival of a relatively intact assemblage of *in situ* Cannery buildings is one of the most important characteristics of the historic place.

Another key heritage character defining feature is the site’s elongated development along the shore of the Inverness Passage, and the fact that the majority of its structures were built on wooden pilings over the water. The necessity for this pattern of development also derived from the physical environment, as the rugged physiography of steep adjacent slopes required the use of the tidal zone to support the buildings, and an attenuated development along the water’s edge. These factors produced a distinctive landscape pattern to the site, and are considered integral to its historic value (*Figure 3*).

The cultural segregation of the workforce, which was general among West Coast canneries, is well represented in the layout of the site, in the surviving examples of housing for European and Japanese, and in the sites of former dwellings of Chinese and First Nations workers. Other components of the spatial layout of the site included the provision of winter storage and boat shops in the far east of the site, and the site of the former school and church north of the Cannery building. Collectively, these resources well represent both industrial and social aspects of the fishing industry.

The sense of place of the North Pacific Cannery derives significantly from its natural setting, especially the lack of obvious developmental intrusions on the lands surrounding the site. This sense of isolation is important to an understanding of the historical role of the Cannery, and it helps communicate the historical reasons for developing a largely self-sufficient complex in an area that was remote for much of its history.



## Objectives

The historic place will have integrity when:

- . the Cannery buildings associated with its workforce are conserved, maintained and monitored.
- . the spatial organization of the site; i.e., elongated development along the passage, is maintained.
- . the buildings and structures are maintained *in situ*;
- . the undeveloped character of the mountain and Smith Island and across the channel is encouraged. The forested view scape of Smith Island is believed to be an integral part of the cultural landscape of this site. Consequently the British Columbia Ministry of Forests will be encouraged to identify *Visual Quality Objectives* for this viewshed in any proposed harvesting plans for the area.
- . The buildings continue to rest on pilings in the passage and along the shore.
- . The North Pacific Cannery Society is actively working with other property owners, i.e. the Municipality of Port Edward and the Skeena- Queen Charlotte Regional District to protect the historic place and its heritage values.
- . Local authorities are encouraged to take steps to ensure that logging on the mountain to the north will not imperil the site, by increasing the risks of land slide.
- . The interrelationships between the site and the railroad are maintained.
- . The well preserved assemblage of Cannery buildings is protected, maintained and monitored *in situ*.
- . The graves of persons buried on the site are researched, identified, protected and monitored.
- . The historic value of the historic place is effectively communicated to the public.

### 3.1.2 Buildings and Structures

#### Values

Among the prominent values of the site is its rich collection of buildings and structures, which document the evolution and complex organization of a north coast Cannery. Collectively, the buildings illustrate the infrastructure necessary to process a range of products associated with the West Coast Fishing Industry. The buildings document the self-sufficiency of the Cannery through much of its history, the cultural variation and segregation of workforce, and the work and domestic lives of the canneries workers and their families. Collectively, the buildings of the Cannery complex represent the demographic realities of single-resource communities, and the role played by European, Asian and First Nations cultures in the development of the West Coast Fishing Industry and the industrial development of British Columbia.

## Objectives

As an ensemble the Cannery's buildings and structures will have integrity when:

- . the form and fabric of the plant are safeguarded and maintained in accordance with the Principles of Cultural Resource Management;
- . the construction methods, massing, materials, and craftsmanship are respected and maintained (e.g. the jointing system for the structure);
- . original fabric/material in need of replacement is replaced in kind;
- . the siting and orientation of the buildings and structures is respected and maintained;
- . the historic value of the buildings and structures is effectively communicated to the public;
- . building conservation training has been provided to carpentry staff at the Cannery, and is being applied to the everyday maintenance of the buildings and structures at the Cannery.

### *Cannery and Warehouse – Values*

The main Cannery is the oldest surviving cannery building in British Columbia, and its forms illustrate many of the key changes in the West Coast Fishing Industry during the era of industrialization in the late 19th and 20th centuries. From the first canning line established at the outset the Cannery expanded its operations to encompass four canning lines at its peak. A major wing was added in 1910, creating the familiar “L” form which has characterized West Coast canneries, subsequently to be converted to a “T”. Following the completion of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway line in 1914, a cold storage plant was established in this wing to enable fresh fish to be stored in preparation for export to Canadian markets. The second storey was used for both can storage and as a net loft.

In terms of its physical values, the Cannery building is a large timber-framed structure with a low-pitched gable roof, and resting on wooden pilings. Changes to the form and orientation of the building reflect additions made to the structure to accommodate new functions over the course of its history. On the interior, the building is characterized by large open spaces, required to enable the installation of a variety of industrial functions, including butchering, canning lines and can manufacture. Throughout, the materials are simple and utilitarian, and represent a cost-consciousness that was general in the industry. An important physical value is that the evolution of the building is still clearly legible, including the roof line of the original building, which is still visible from the loft of the more recent additions. Further values include the galvanized corrugated iron roofing, a feature dating from the 1920s, and the form, dimensions, alignment, and materials of the adjacent docks and boardwalk.

*Cannery and Warehouse – Objectives*

- . That the form, massing and design of the building are maintained and monitored.

*Packing and Storage Building (1943) – Values*

This rectangular structure was built to provide additional storage space for tinned salmon, and was later used for salt storage. A gable-roofed structure, its plywood sheathing is similar to that found on the main Cannery building. The convex bowing of the floor reflects its use and abuse over the years.

*Packing and Storage Building (1943) – Objectives*

- . That the form, layout and materials of the Packing and Storage Building are respected and monitored.

*Machine Shop and Net Loft (1923; 1937) – Values*

This building was constructed at Port Essington in 1923 and moved to its present site in 1937. It housed a machine shop on the lower level, with a net loft in the attic storey for storage and mending of nets. The netloft area retains the stringers from which nets were suspended during the Cannery's operation, while the mechanical equipment of the machine shop, including engine, flywheel, pulleys, and lathes, remain largely intact. Inside the door, a separate area was used to store bluestone, or copper sulphate, for cleaning the linen nets. Among the physical values of this building are its board and batten exterior, which impart a distinctive visual character, and its open interior, in which the roof structure is clearly visible.

*Machine Shop and Net Loft (1923; 1937) – Objectives*

- . That the form, layout and materials of the machine shop and net loft are respected.

*Reduction Plants and Tanks (1954) – Values*

These buildings were built to process salmon offal in the summer and whole herring in the winter. The offal was cooked in pressure cookers, a press removed the liquid, which was boiled to generate fish oil. Solids produced by this process were dried, bagged and sold as animal feed. The reduction plant ceased operation in 1968 when the herring fishery was closed. The plant was re-opened between 1972 and 1980 to process fish offal.

The reduction plant is associated with the changes to the Cannery to accommodate new functions in relation to changing technology and markets. Of milled frame construction, these buildings were clad with metal siding and mounted on wooden pilings. Four large metal tanks were associated with the reduction plant. Two of the tanks were used in fish oil storage, and the other two contained water and fuel oil for the plant. Valued physical characteristics of these structures include the form and materials of the smoke stack of the boiler house, and the conical form, materials and siting of the tanks. A further value is that they are supported on pilings, which imparts a distinctive appearance to the reduction complex.

Another small building on the southeast corner of the main Cannery building was constructed following completion of the access road in 1959 to enable delivery of fish offal for processing in the reduction plant. The offal pit remains *in situ*. Among the physical values of this building are its mill frame construction and clad connected metal siding.

The associative values of these buildings include the fact that the fish reduction function kept the North Pacific Cannery in operation when decisions were made to close other canneries in the region. The reduction resources also represent another dimension to the West Coast Fishing Industry, and chart another chapter in the evolution of the site.

#### *Reduction Plants and Tanks – Objectives*

- . That the form, layout and materials of the Reduction Plants and Tanks are respected.

#### *Cannery Office – Values*

Resting on pilings, this gable-roofed one and one half storey building was erected in 1956 when the Cannery was converted to a year-round operation. It is situated in front of the former manager's residence, to the east of the reduction plant. The office served as the nerve centre for the site. Here, records on the Cannery's operation were kept, people were hired, and contracts with fishing bosses were signed. Currently, it houses the offices of the North Pacific Cannery Village Museum.

#### *Cannery Office – Objectives*

- . That the form, interior layout, and materials of the Cannery office are protected, maintained and monitored.

*Cannery Manager's House (1916) – Values*

Constructed in 1916 with wood from the Georgetown Mills, the manager's residence was the largest single-family residence on the site. This building originally was of identical plan to the adjacent Assistant Manager's residence until modified in 1924 with the addition of a shed addition and a dormer window. The enlarged building housed the Cannery manager and his family. Its form and siting on the embankment side of the boardwalk, with accompanying yard and garden illustrated status of the manager, while its positioning near the Cannery buildings reflected his role in managing the overall site.

*Cannery Manager's House – Objectives*

- . That the siting and historical orientation of the building be maintained.

*Assistant Manager's Residence – Values*

This building was originally identical to the adjacent manager's residence. It is associated with changes in Cannery operations, as the establishment of this position coincided with the initiation of can manufacture at the site. Built in 1918, it is a one and one half storey gable-roofed frame building, faced with drop siding, with return eaves adding interest to the roof structure. Sited on the embankment side of the boardwalk, it possessed a small yard.

*Assistant Manager's Residence – Objectives*

- . That the form, layout and materials of the building are respected.

*Workers' Cottages (Building 9, 10, and 11) (ca. 1940) – Values*

These smaller residences housed Euro-Canadian workers at the Cannery, including the storekeeper and winter watchmen and their families. Of identical form and plan, they illustrate the utilitarian approach to the provision of standardized workers' housing at resource communities of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Their physical values include their shallow-pitched gable-roofed design, identical gable-roofed porches, placement of window and door openings, drop siding, and plywood skirting around the base.

*Workers' Cottages – Objectives*

- . That the form, layout and materials of the cottages are respected.

*Cannery Store – Values*

A one and one half storey gable-roofed building flanked by shed-roof extensions, the former Cannery store is believed to have been brought to its present site by barge from another Cannery in 1940. The building illustrates the self-sufficient operations which were a goal of the Cannery owners. The store was the source of provisions, clothing, tableware, hardware, and other goods for Cannery workers. Workers could receive advances on their wages in the form of coupons, which they used to purchase goods sold by the company, a practice typical of primary resource communities along the coast. The building also served as a community centre for the complex.

*Cannery Store – Objectives*

- . That the form, layout and materials of the Cannery store are respected.

*Net Boss's Cabin (ca. 1940) – Values*

This small one storey building is of square plan, gable roofed, and clad with drop siding. Resting on pilings over the water, it formerly housed the net boss of the Cannery. A shed extension built on the south of the structure was used for cold storage. The building currently functions as a space for the local ham radio club.

*Net Boss's Cabin – Objectives*

- . That the form, layout and materials of the Net Boss's Cabin are respected

*Watchman's Cabin (1935-46) – Values*

A one and a half storey cabin, this gable-roofed structure is faced with bevelled siding, and situated on the embankment side of the boardwalk extending to the east of the main Cannery complex.

*Watchman's Cabin (1935-46) – Objectives*

- . That the form, layout and materials of the Watchman's Cabin are respected.

*Staff Cabin – Values*

A small cabin faced with bevelled siding, this building formerly functioned as a siding office for the Grand Trunk Pacific following the building of the rail line that skirted the Inverness Passage. Its original location was adjacent on the north side of the tracks, immediately adjacent to the North Pacific Cannery site. Following its acquisition by the Cannery, the building was moved a short distance to its present site on the embankment side of the boardwalk. Its status as a re-cycled building represents an interesting aspect of the site's history, the pragmatic re-use of vernacular buildings in accordance with

changing workforce and associated infrastructure.

*Staff Cabin – Objectives*

- . That the form, layout and materials of the Staff Cabin are respected.

*Two-Storey Bunkhouse – Values*

Built in the 1960s, this two-storey structure was added to meet the expanded accommodation needs of the workforce at this late stage in the Cannery's operation. Of rectangular form, the gable-roofed building is clad with plywood panels similar to the facing materials of the Cannery and Packing buildings. It is located on the embankment side of the boardwalk, immediately to the east of the staff cabin.

*Two-Storey Bunkhouse – Objectives*

- . That the form, layout and materials of the Two-Storey Bunkhouse are respected.

*Mess House/Restaurant (ca. 1930) – Values*

Resting on pilings, this one-storey building is located on the boardwalk across from the bunk house. For the last 50 years of the Cannery's operation, it was the mess house and restaurant for European workers at the site. Prior to the building of the bunkhouse, the mess house was located on the embankment side directly across from its current site. Currently, it continues to serve as a restaurant for museum staff and visitors.

*Mess House/Restaurant (ca. 1930) – Objectives*

- . That the form, layout and materials of the Mess House/Restaurant are respected.

*Triplex Units (1964-65) – Values*

These gable-roofed buildings provided self-contained accommodation to Cannery workers during its last years of operation. Faced with plywood lapped to resemble siding, they are located on the embankment side of the boardwalk to the east of the two-storey bunkhouse.

*Triplex Units (1964-65) – Objectives*

- . That the form, layout and materials of the Triplex Units are respected.

*Shikitani House – Values*

A one-storey dwelling, this building was constructed in the 1930s to house Tak Shikitani and his family. He was a spokesman for the Japanese workers at the site. In the 1940s, the buildings were used to house summer student workers at the Cannery. In the 1950s and 1960s the Shikitani family again lived in the building during the summer. Former resources associated with the Japanese community in the site included a Japanese community bath at the end of the boardwalk. Among the associative values of the Shikitani House were its representation of the Japanese community, a significant cultural group in the Fishing Industry and in the operation of the Cannery, as well as the ethnocultural segregation of the Cannery workforce. Further, the building is associated with the internments of 1941, a significant event in the lives of Japanese Canadians, and more generally in the history of Canada. Physical values of the house include the fact that it rests on wooden pilings, and its vertical board and batten sheathing.

*Shikitani House – Objectives*

- . That the form, layout and materials of the Shikitani House are respected.

*Japanese Bunkhouse – Values*

A one and one half storey structure with shed roof extension, this building was built in 1930 and clad with tapered siding. Before the Second World War, the bunkhouse housed seasonally-employed Japanese fishermen, boat builders, and carpenters at the Cannery. During the late 1950s and 1960s the bunkhouse was managed by the Miki family. The multi-pane glazing of its windows is an exterior feature of interest. The building retains its original layout, including the division of space into small compartments for the individual fisherman, with a separate washhouse wing at the rear. Retention of the window and door openings is important to documenting the historical patterns of the building's use.

*Japanese Bunkhouse – Objectives*

- . That the form, layout and materials of the Japanese Bunkhouse are respected.



### *First Nations Dwellings – Values*

First Nations dwellings occupied much of the western portion of the site for much of the period of the Cannery's operations. These dwellings were simple gable roofed structures, sided with vertical boards and battens, and divided into two rooms. First Nations families lived in these dwellings throughout the fishing season, as men worked on the fishing crews, and women were employed in making and mending nets, and in looking after their children (Figure 4).

Two or three First Nations dwellings which may have formerly belonged to the North Pacific Cannery are presently owned by a third party in the vicinity of the site. Given the direction of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada with regard to these buildings, if their site-specific status could be confirmed, they would be considered important Level 1 cultural resources belonging to the site.



**Figure 4:** *First Nations housing at North Pacific Cannery, 1970s. (Gladys Blyth photo.)*

### *First Nations Dwellings – Objectives*

- . Research should first be undertaken to confirm that the said buildings are authentic cultural resources belonging to the site.
- . In the event their authenticity and site-specific status for the North Pacific Cannery is confirmed, the museum should seek to protect and repatriate these structures to their original site.

### *Shed for Boat Lift – Values*

On the decking to the south of the main Cannery building is a small shed that formerly sheltered the motor powering the boat lift. Two winches associated with the lift are still housed inside this structure.

*Shed for Boat Lift – Objectives*

- . That the form, layout and materials of the shed for the boat lift are respected.

*Decks Adjacent to the Cannery Building – Values*

The decking to the south of the Cannery building was an integral component of the operations of unloading and distributing fish from boats for processing at the Cannery. It also provided a wharf for coastal steamers which unloaded supplies and loaded canned salmon destined for southern markets. It is one of the largest structures on the site, and represents the infrastructure needed to operate a north coastal Cannery dependent on water transport for importing provisions and materials, and exporting fish products. During the winter, many boats were stored on the deck. Additional decking was added to the west in 1937, improving the wharf facilities for the steamships. Integral features of the deck include the boat lift, which was used in winching gillnet boats up to the deck level to enable their contents to be off loaded.

*Decking Adjacent to the Cannery Building – Objectives*

- . That the form, layout and materials of the shed for the boat lift are respected.

**3.1.3 Moveable Cultural Resources****Values**

The North Pacific Cannery Village Museum possess a large number of artifacts associated with the history of the west coast fishing industry, and particularly the operations of north coast canneries. Much of this collection consists of objects that relate to canning, other forms of fish processing, fishing equipment, gear, and associated documentation. Physical values and associative values of the objects in this collection include:

- . variations in colour and design of equipment reflecting the nature of the industrial activity;
- . the variety of materials and fabrication techniques shown by the artifact collection, exhibiting the diversity and complexity that the industry required to function efficiently;
- . the large-scale of objects, signifying the scope and scale of an industrial fishing operation;
- . the artifacts' composition of ferrous metal, wood, and other organic materials;

- . the fact that many artifacts and equipment show an adaptation of function by showing additions or modifications of existing machines which improved functioning or eased operation;
- . patterns of wear, added improvements to the function of the object, graffiti, use of varied materials and finishes, which communicate the industrial nature of the site.

## Objectives

The movable cultural resources will be safe guarded when:

- . the artifacts, moveable objects, collections, and records, owned and managed by North Pacific Cannery Village Museum Society are inventoried, evaluated, managed, maintained, and presented according to currently accepted conservation practices and in accordance with Parks Canada's Cultural Resource Management Policy and other relevant policies or agreements;
- . historic objects from both collections are presented, appropriate to their values, and access is ensured for research and interpretation;
- . the historic records of the Cannery have been adequately inventoried and are being protected in a controlled non-hazardous environment according to established archival procedures of conservation, and access is ensured to enable the site, buildings, and collections to be properly protected and the site's significance communicated to the public;
- . a Scope of Collections Statement is developed to provide a policy framework for the identification, evaluation, consideration, and monitoring of the collections at the Cannery;
- . the historic value of the objects and collections is effectively communicated to the public.

### 3.1.4. *In Situ* Archaeological Resources

#### Values

Level 1 archeological resources of the site include the sites of former buildings and structures at the Cannery. These resources document a range of important features and activities associated with the site, including:

- . the "China House," the Chinese bunkhouse formerly located on the site of the current parking lot;
- . the Church;
- . pilings of the former net loft of Japanese fisherman located in the intertidal zone to the south of the Shikitani House;

- . pilings formerly supporting the First Nations dwellings, which are still present on the beach to the west of the main Cannery complex;
- . pilings for the former boat shed to the east of the complex are still extant.

### Objectives

- . The *in situ* resources are inventoried, recorded, protected and monitored.
- . The historic value of the in situ archaeological resources is effectively communicated to the public.

## 3.2 Second Element

*The reasons for the site's national historic significance are effectively communicated to the public*

The second element of commemorative integrity focuses on the effective communication of the messages which must be delivered if the site is to have commemorative integrity. These messages reflect the commemorative intent. The achievement of commemorative integrity means that the public must not only understand the individual messages, but should also appreciate the overall impact of the history of this site on Canada's national development.

Effective communication of national messages also implies that the messages are based on research, knowledge, and awareness and sensitivity to current historiography regarding the basis for commemoration. It also suggests that presentation is balanced. This means that various perspectives on the events associated with this site are communicated. Moreover, the individual components of the story should not be treated in isolation, but integrated into the presentation of the history of the site as a whole.

Further, changes to the site over time are important to communicating the full story of this place. In the case of the North Pacific Cannery, the commemorative intent involves the evolution of the Cannery from 1889 to 1981.

### 3.2.1 Nationally-Significant Messages

#### Key Message

*The North Pacific Cannery is of national historic significance for its association with the West Coast Fishing Industry.*

## Context Messages

- . The Cannery was an operating Cannery for 92 years, and witnessed much of the evolution of the industry in the late 19th and 20th centuries.
- . The Cannery's emphasis on salmon canning reflected the prominence of this resource for much of the Industry's history.
- . A variety of fish were processed here, including salmon, halibut, and herring, reflecting the more diversified nature of the north coast Cannery operations.
- . The Cannery was associated with overseas markets after 1889, and with population expansion, emerging Canadian markets after the arrival of rail linkages in 1914;
- . Technological changes at the North Pacific Cannery, including the introduction of iron butchering machines and fish reduction plants, were representative of technological changes throughout the industry in the 20th century.
- . The closing of the Cannery in the 1980s reflected further changes in the industry, i.e., the consolidation of canning and fish processing in a few centres.
- . The practice of establishing self-sufficient operations was generally practised in the era before modern transportation linkages.
- . The Cannery's culturally diverse workforce, including workers of European, Chinese, Japanese, and First nations cultures, mirrored the experience of numerous other canneries.
- . The practice of ethnocultural and gendered segregation of the workplace was generally practised at West Coast canneries.
- . The housing of whole families at the Cannery reflected the social and family organization of the communities who laboured at the complex.
- . Built in 1889, the original Cannery survives with various modifications.
- . It is a well-preserved representation of the evolution of aspects of that history.
- . Erected on pilings, the Cannery's form, layout, and orientation document the physical character of early West Coast Cannery buildings.
- . The surviving timber framing system, the roof of the original building, and other extant fabric of the 19th century document the original building of 1889, while changes to the building's form chart its evolution since that era.
- . The range of buildings documents a typical north coast Cannery operation, in terms of required physical plant, housing, administrative, and commercial activities.
- . The Cannery's location on a sheltered passage in a river estuary was representative of the siting of West Coast canneries.
- . The isolated setting of the North Pacific Cannery was typical of other north coast canneries before the arrival of rail linkages.

## Learning Objectives

The reasons for the commemoration of the North Pacific Cannery NHS will be effectively presented when:

- . Canadians know that Canada's West Coast Fishing Industry from the 1870s to the modern era, is a theme of national historic significance;
- . Canadians know that the North Pacific Cannery is representative of the Evolution of the West Coast Fishing Industry;
- . Canadians know that the North Pacific Cannery is the oldest West Coast Cannery still standing, a building that represents the form, layout and materials of canneries of the late 19th centuries, and their evolution over time;
- . Canadians know that the North Pacific Cannery is typical of most north coast canneries in its isolation and operations, workforce, and buildings;
- . Canadians know and understand the evolution of fishing methods and processing technologies in the development of the West Coast Fishing Industry;
- . Canadians know that the evolution of the physical structure of the Cannery complex well illustrates the development of the West Coast Fishing Industry.

## General Objectives

The learning objectives outlined in the preceding section will be further met when a number of general objectives for the delivery of nationally significant messages are achieved, including:

- . that Canadians and visitors understand the key components of commemorative intent, and their supporting components;
- . the public understands the context and national significance of the site, and the geographic and historic relationships of the site to the West Coast Fishing Industry;
- . messages of national significance are not overwhelmed by other messages at the site;
- . messages and the site's resources are presented with integrity, conjectural information is acknowledged and authentic and recreated resources are distinguished;
- . community support for participation in events and activities related to the messages of national significance is encouraged;
- . when appropriate and effective means have been identified for delivery of the messages to target audiences;
- . when site visitors have a full experience and understanding of the site's values and importance;
- . when the North Pacific Cannery Village Museum is working in partnership with the fishing industry to present the relationship of this site to the modern fishing industry;
- . when the messages should be communicated to as many Canadians as possible;

- . when the messages of national significance are not overwhelmed by other messages at the site;
- . when community support for participation in messages is encouraged.

### 3.3 Third Element

*The site's heritage values are respected by all whose decisions or actions affect the site*

The third component of Commemorative Integrity is concerned with ensuring that the site's heritage values will be respected by all those whose decisions or actions affect the site. Values other than those of national historic significance include: i) complementary messages, known as a level II messages; and ii) cultural resources, which are of value but not of national historic significance, known as a level II resources; and iii) other values, such as a the role of the local community in the protection/presentation of the site, the collection of research materials and documentation on site, and the site's membership in the larger family of national historic sites.

#### 3.3.1 Level II Cultural Resources

##### Values

For the North Pacific Cannery, the Level II cultural resources comprise objects historically used in the West Coast Fishing Industry, which are not site-specific to the North Pacific Cannery, such as fishing, fish processing and canning equipment, and other objects associated with West Coast Canneries, their operation, workers, and Cannery life. These objects have been acquired for exhibit purposes to assist in the interpretation of the West Coast Fishing Industry, and the function and purpose of individual structures.

The level II cultural resources for this site also include original documentary materials (as opposed to copies), including recorded oral history interviews, original photographs, textual documents, original maps, blueprints, charts, site plans, and historic architectural and engineering reports.

##### Objectives

- . That the Level II resources have been inventoried, evaluated, and are being maintained and monitored.

### 3.3.2 Level II Messages

#### Values

The other heritage values include a number of important messages not directly tied to the commemorative intent of the site, including:

- . the boat building industry at the North Pacific and nearby canneries;
- . the relationship of Cannery life and the experience of growing up in Port Edward and Prince Rupert;
- . the sharing and development of artistic styles by First Nations artisans drawn to the Cannery from a variety of cultural backgrounds;
- . the on-going importance of West Coast fishing industry;
- . the culture of the North Coast, which is closely tied to the history of the canneries;
- . the fact that the North Pacific Cannery is one of the few places on the coast where people can sit on the dock and watch commercial gill net fisheries in operation today;
- . the presence and ecological value of marine mammals in the Inverness Passage, i.e. humpback whales, orca, sea otters, harbour seals, sea lions, etc.;
- . the relationship of the North Pacific Cannery to the Gulf of Georgia Cannery and their common and different histories, and to other west coast fishing industry sites;
- . ecological aspects of the Fishing Industry;
- . the association of the Cannery with the heyday of fishing;
- . the sustainability of the fishery over time;
- . the relationship of the North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site to the larger family of 800 national historic sites across Canada;
- . the relationship of the site to unions and the labour movement;
- . the North Coast Net Project with Tsimshian First Nations;
- . the contribution and role of the Japanese Benevolent Fisherman's Association;
- . the contribution of leaders in the United Fishermen, the Allied Workers' Union, and the West Coast labour movement;
- . the contribution of early heritage advocates to the protection of the North Pacific Cannery Village Museum as a heritage site, e.g. Gladys Blyth, Allan Sheppard;
- . the thematic relationships of this site to the Metlakatla Pass NHS and Pike Island;
- . the relationship of the Cannery's programs to the Museum of Northern British Columbia;
- . the relationship of the Cannery to other sites of the West Coast Fishing Industry (e.g., Gulf of Georgia Cannery) and the larger family of national historic sites across Canada.



### Objectives

- . That the Level II messages are presented with integrity, do not overwhelm messages of national significance, conjectural information is acknowledged and authentic and recreated resources are distinguished.

### 3.3.3 Site Research Materials

#### Values

Site research materials, such as videos, books, manuals, manuscript reports, photocopies of manuscripts, photograph reproductions, oral history cassette tape duplicates, and other copied documents which record the changes and evolution of the site, provide a significant information base for interpretation and decision making for the preservation of the site.

#### Objectives

- . That the site research materials are adequately inventoried, catalogued, and managed to enable their effective use in on-going site research programs and in decision making at the site.

### 3.3.4 The Community of Port Edward

#### Values

An important value is the role of the Community of Port Edward in the protection and presentation of this important site.

#### Objectives

The community is encouraged to:

- . be active in the protection and presentation of cultural heritage;
- . continue to support and participate in the protection and presentation of the site; recognize the site as a local and regional tourist attraction and educational resources;
- . continue to support the role of the North Pacific Cannery Village Museum Society in the development and continuing operation of the site.

## References

Kenneth Campbell, *Everlasting Memory: A Guide to the North Pacific Cannery Village Museum*, Port Edward, B.C., 1995.



Canada, Minutes of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, Ottawa, 1985, 1987, 1992.

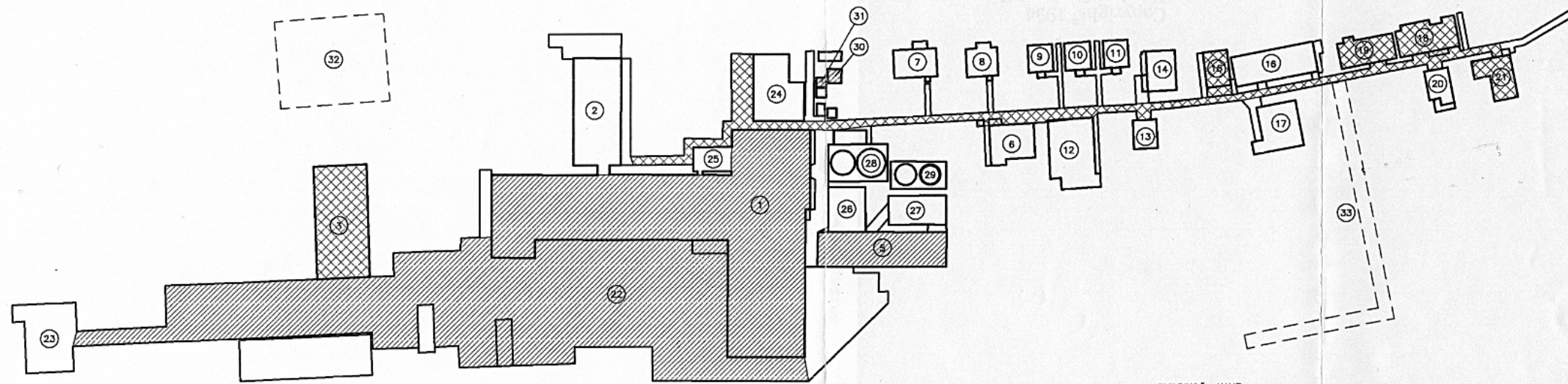
Edward Mills, Agenda Papers on North Pacific Cannery Village Museum, Ottawa, 1985, 1992.

## **APPENDIX 3**

### **Detailed Site Plan**

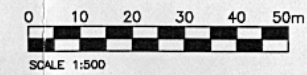
#### **North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site**

-  PHASE 1 - STABILIZE ONLY
-  PHASE 2



- | BUILDING# | NAME                            |
|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 1         | CANNERY AND WAREHOUSE           |
| 2         | PACKING AND STORAGE BUILDING    |
| 3         | MACHINE SHOP                    |
| 5         | REDUCTION PLANT                 |
| 6         | CANNERY OFFICE                  |
| 7         | MANAGER'S HOUSE                 |
| 8         | ASSISTANT MANAGER'S HOUSE       |
| 9         | WORKER'S COTTAGE                |
| 10        | WORKER'S COTTAGE                |
| 11        | WORKER'S COTTAGE                |
| 12        | CANNERY STORE                   |
| 13        | NET BOSS'S CABIN                |
| 14        | WATCHMAN'S CABIN                |
| 15        | LINEMAN'S HOUSE                 |
| 16        | TWO-STOUREY BUNKHOUSE           |
| 17        | MESS HOUSE/CAFE                 |
| 18        | STAFF TRIPLEX                   |
| 19        | STAFF TRIPLEX                   |
| 20        | SHIKITANI HOUSE                 |
| 21        | JAPANESE BUNKHOUSE              |
| 22        | WORKING DOCK                    |
| 23        | FUEL SHED                       |
| 24        | CAN-MAKING BUILDING             |
| 25        | TIME OFFICE                     |
| 26        | BOILER SHED                     |
| 27        | FISH OIL PLANT                  |
| 28        | TANKS A & B                     |
| 29        | TANKS C & D                     |
| 30        | WATER TANK "G"                  |
| 31        | TANKS F & F'                    |
| 32        | FIRST NATIONS PRESENTATION AREA |
| 33        | FLOATING DOCK                   |

SITE PLAN  
SCALE 1:500



PAUL J. CHOQUETTE

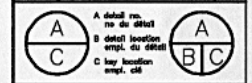
Director General  
Real Property Services for  
Canadian Heritage and  
Environment Canada

Directeur général  
Services immobiliers pour  
Patrimoine canadien et  
Environnement Canada

Prepared By  
**Heritage  
Conservation Program**  
Real Property Services  
Dedicated Unit (CH/EC)  
Préparé par  
**Programme pour la  
conservation du patrimoine**  
Services immobiliers  
Unité dédiée SI (PC/EC)

**NOTES:**  
-THIS RECORD WAS PRODUCED  
USING THE INTERNATIONAL  
SYSTEM OF MEASUREMENTS.  
-THE DRAWING ACCURACY IS OF  
± 50mm.  
-DASHED LINES ARE ASSUMED.  
-BUILDING NAMES FROM  
HISTORIC SITES AND MONUMENT  
BOARD OF CANADA AGENDA  
PAPER, NORTH PACIFIC CANNERY,  
PORT EDWARD, BC EDWARD MILLS  
1992-34  
(21) NOTES BUILDING NUMBER

revisions	date



project NORTH PACIFIC  
CANNERY  
PORT EDWARD  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

drawing SITE PLAN

Analysed	corps
date	date
Drawn	BRENT JONES
date	JULY 1998
checked	J. BELL
date	date
approved	approved
date	date
Tender	Soumission
Project Manager	Coordonnateur du projet
client project no.	no de projet du client
NCP project no.	no de projet de PCP
	405956
drawing no.	no. de dessin
	2

## **APPENDIX 4**

**BC Conservation Data Centre**

**Rare Vertebrate Animal Tracking List**

**North Coast Forest District**

**June 2000**

**B.C. Conservation Data Centre: Rare Vertebrate Animal Tracking List**  
**North Coast Forest District**  
**June 2000**

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Global Rank</b>	<b>Prov. Rank</b>	<b>Prov. List</b>
<b>Lampreys</b>				
<b>Freshwater Fish</b>				
<i>Salvelinus confluentus</i>	Bull Trout	G3	S3	Blue
<b>Amphibians</b>				
<i>Ascaphus truei</i> population 2	Tailed Frog, coastal population	G4T4Q	S3S4	Blue
<b>Reptiles</b>				
<b>Birds</b>				
<i>Phalacrocorax pelagicus pelagicus</i>	Pelagic Cormorant, <i>pelagicus</i> subspecies	G5TU	S2B,SZN	Red
<i>Ardea herodias fannini</i>	Great Blue Heron, <i>fannini</i> subspecies	G5T4	S3B, S5N	Blue
<i>Cygnus buccinator</i>	Trumpeter Swan	G4	S3S4B,S4N	Blue
<i>Branta bernicla</i>	Brant	G5	S3N	Yellow
<i>Histrionicus histrionicus</i>	Harlequin Duck	G4	S3N,S4B	Yellow
<i>Melanitta perspicillata</i>	Surf Scoter	G5	S3B,S4N	Blue
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	G4	S4	Yellow
<i>Accipiter gentilis laingi</i>	Northern Goshawk, <i>laingi</i> subspecies	G5T2	S2B,SZN	Red
<i>Falco peregrinus pealei</i>	Peregrine Falcon, <i>pealei</i> subspecies	G4T3	S3B,SZN	Blue
<i>Falco rusticolus</i>	Gyrfalcon	G5	S3?B,SZN	Blue
<i>Grus canadensis</i>	Sandhill Crane	G5	S3B,SZN	Blue
<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	Marbled Murrelet	G3G4	S2B,SZN	Red
<i>Synthliboramphus antiquus</i>	Ancient Murrelet	G4	S3B,SZN	Blue
<i>Ptychoramphus aleuticus</i>	Cassin's Auklet	G4	S3B,SZN	Blue
<i>Cerorhinca monocerata</i>	Rhinoceros Auklet	G5	S4B,SZN	Yellow
<i>Fratercula cirrhata</i>	Tufted Puffin	G5	S3B,SZN	Blue
<i>Fratercula corniculata</i>	Horned Puffin	G5	S2B,SZN	Red
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-Eared Owl	G5	S2N,S3B	Blue
<i>Pinicola enucleator carlottae</i>	Pine Grosbeak, <i>carlottae</i> subspecies	G5T3	S3B,SZN	Blue
<b>Mammals</b>				
<i>Myotis keenii</i>	Keen's Long-Eared Myotis	G2G3	S1S3	Red
<i>Orcinus orca</i> population 1	Killer Whale (Northeast Pacific resident population)	G4G5T3Q	S3	Blue
<i>Orcinus orca</i> population 2	Killer Whale (Northeast Pacific offshore population)	G4G5TUQ	S3	Blue
<i>Orcinus orca</i> population 3	Killer Whale (West Coast transient population)	G4G5T4Q	S3	Blue
<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>	Gray Whale	G3G4	S2N	Blue
<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Humpback Whale	G3	S1N	Blue
<i>Ursus arctos</i>	Grizzly Bear	G4	S3	Blue
<i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>	Northern Sea Lion	G3	S2B,S3N	Red
<i>Martes pennanti</i>	Fisher	G5	S3	Blue

**B.C. Conservation Data Centre: Rare Vertebrate Animal Tracking List**  
**North Coast Forest District**  
**June 2000**

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<i>Gulo gulo luscus</i>	Wolverine, <i>luscus</i> subspecies	G4T4	S3	Blue
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31 Taxa Listed

## **APPENDIX 5**

**BC Conservation Data Centre**

**Rare Vascular Plant Tracking List**

**North Coast Forest District**

**May 2000**



**B.C. Conservation Data Centre: Rare Vascular Plant Tracking List**  
**North Coast Forest District**  
**May 2000**

<b>Scientific name</b>	<b>Common name</b>	<b>Global Rank</b>	<b>Prov. Rank</b>	<b>Prov. List</b>
<i>Agrostis pallens</i>	Dune bentgrass	G4G5	S2S3	Blue
<i>Arnica chamissonis</i> ssp. <i>incana</i>	Meadow arnica	G5T?	S2S3	Blue
<i>Aster ascendens</i>	Long-leaved aster	G5	S2S3	Blue
<i>Calamagrostis montanensis</i>	Plains reedgrass	G5	S1	Red
<i>Callitriche heterophylla</i> ssp. <i>heterophylla</i>	Two-edged water-starwort	G5T5	S2S3	Blue
<i>Caltha palustris</i> var. <i>palustris</i>	Yellow marsh-marigold	G5T?	S2S3	Blue
<i>Carex glareosa</i> var. <i>amphigena</i>	Lesser saltmarsh sedge	G4G5T?	S2S3	Blue
<i>Carex gmelinii</i>	Gmelin's sedge	G4G5	S2S3	Blue
<i>Cornus suecica</i>	Dwarf bog bunchberry	G5	S2S3	Blue
<i>Eleocharis kamtschatica</i>	Kamtschatica spike-rush	G4	S2S3	Blue
<i>Enemion savilei</i>	Queen Charlotte isopyrum	G3	S3	Blue
<i>Hippuris tetraphylla</i>	Four-leaved mare's-tail	G5	S2S3	Blue
<i>Juncus arcticus</i> ssp. <i>alaskanus</i>	Arctic rush	G5T?	S2S3	Blue
<i>Juncus stygius</i>	Bog rush	G5	S2S3	Blue
<i>Leucanthemum arcticum</i>	Arctic daisy	G5	SH	Red
<i>Ligusticum calderi</i>	Calder's lovage	G3	S3	Blue
<i>Lilaea scilloides</i>	Flowering quillwort	G5?	S2S3	Blue
<i>Malaxis paludosa</i>	Bog adder's-mouth orchid	G4	S2S3	Blue
<i>Polystichum setigerum</i>	Alaska holly fern	G2G3	S2S3	Blue
<i>Sanguisorba menziesii</i>	Menzies' burnet	G3G4	S2S3	Blue
<i>Senecio moresbiensis</i>	Queen Charlotte butterweed	G3	S3	Blue
<i>Triglochin concinnum</i> var. <i>concinnum</i>	Graceful arrow-grass	G5T?	S2	Red

22 Taxa Listed