

Commemorative Integrity Statement



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

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Commemorative Integrity Statement

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

**Herb Pond, Executive Director,
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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.

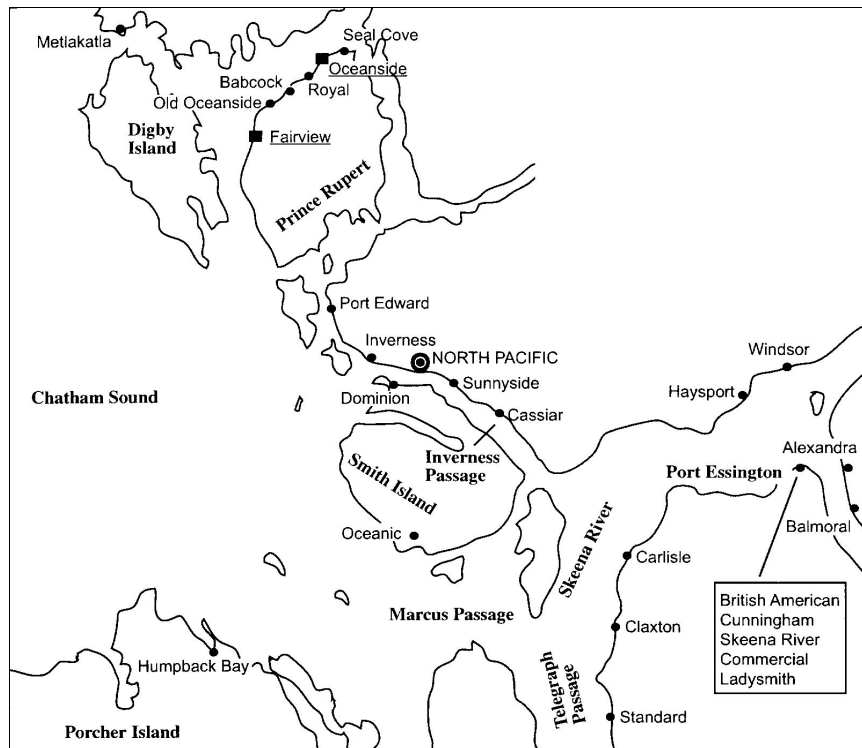


Figure 1: Regional Context of North Pacific Cannery NHS

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.

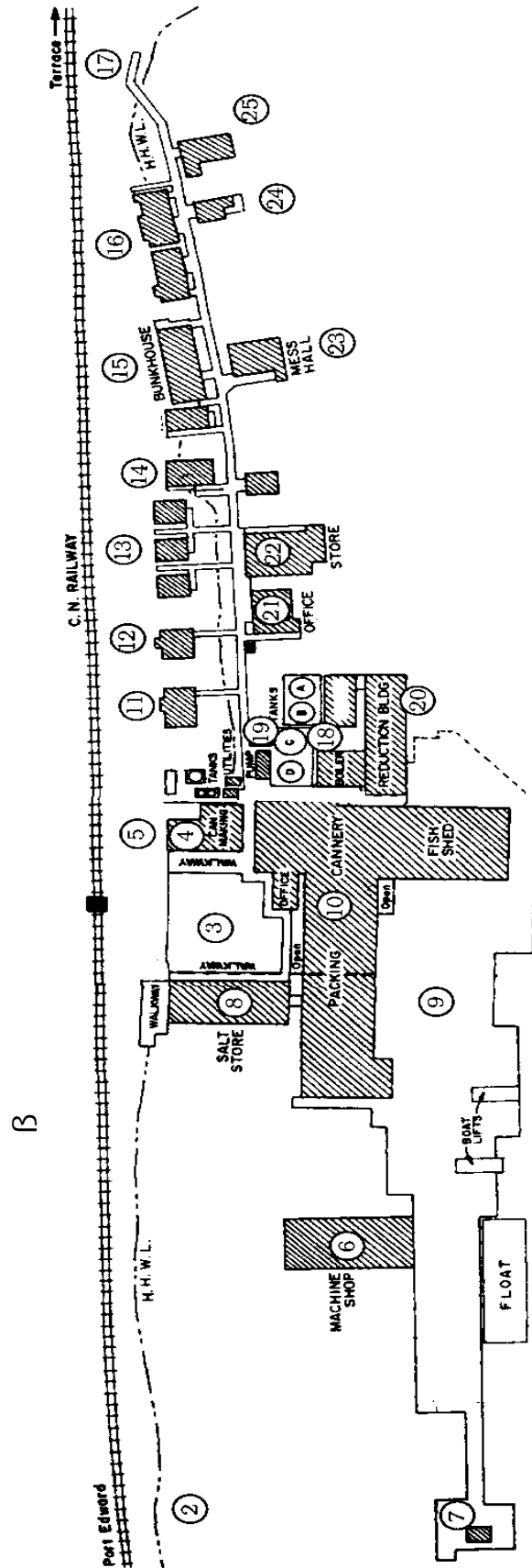
Contrasting with the experience of canneries in southern British Columbia, the North Pacific Cannery exhibited many of the characteristics of North Coast canneries. In its initially isolated setting it was an operation requiring a high degree of economic and social self-sufficiency which was typical 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.

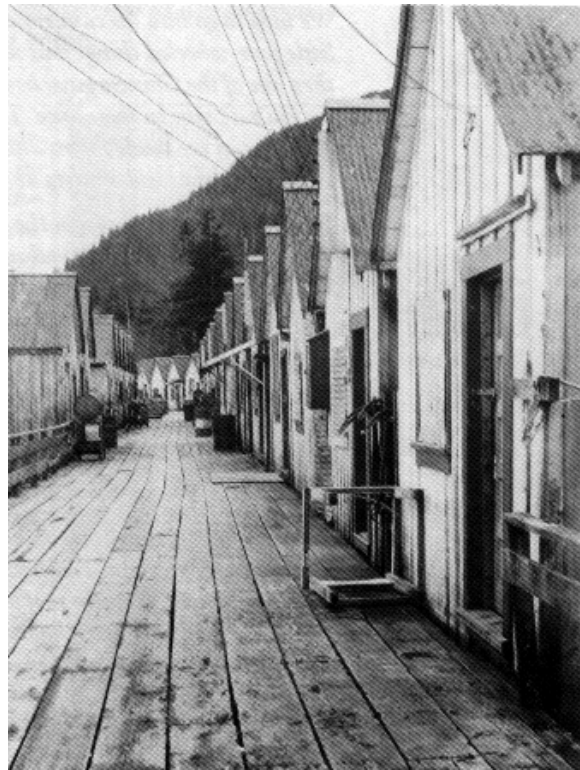


Figure 4: *First Nations housing at North Pacific Cannery, 1970s. (Gladys Blyth photo.)*

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

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