

FHBRO Number 96-96

Colwood, British Columbia

**Canteen**

603 Fort Rodd Hill Road

The Canteen was constructed in 1900. It was designed by the British Royal Engineers and intended for the relaxation of military personnel. A small latrine has been added to the rear (nd). Internal modifications include subdivision of the Tap Room for an office (1940s). The current interiors reflect the condition in 1943. The building is currently interpreted as part of Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Site. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 96-96.

**Reasons For Designation**

The Canteen was designated Recognized because of its environmental significance and its architectural importance, as well as its historical associations.

The slightly rolling open site, at an important crossroads for access to all the Batteries, is unchanged from its early appearance. The structure is sited at the southern edge of an open field. Its position, adjacent to the Lower Battery defensive walls, contributes to its prominence within the setting of the fort.

The structure has a pleasant, unassuming appearance derived from the horizontal lines of the roofline and the porch design. The good craftsmanship of the wood porch and concrete structure, which is plastered, as well as the distinct patterned painting around windows and doors, add to the aesthetic appeal.

The Canteen is associated with the original construction of Fort Rodd Hill. It is indirectly related to the theme of active military defence through its continued role in catering to the needs of the men stationed at the fort.

**Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the Canteen resides in its overall massing, profile, construction materials, interior planning, and site relationships.

The flat-roofed structure has a low, rectangular massing and a prominent chimney. The irregular footprint has offsets to the side and the rear, as well as a walkway under the sloped porch roof and a cold storage access stair hatch, all part of the footprint. The massing, profile, and footprint reflect the functions of the structure and should be respected.

The concrete formwork with plaster finish features rounded edges at openings and

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projecting sills, contributing to the simple expression of the structure. The paint finish is a distinctive feature, reflecting the military purpose of the structure. The woodwork of the porch shelter, with its exposed rafters, roof sheathing, and wood posts with chamfered edges, is simply detailed. Exterior materials merit regular maintenance. The wood four-over-four sash windows appear to be original and are sympathetic to the design.

The interior planning has been generally maintained, and reflects the functional nature of the building. Original finishes and features should be identified and maintained.

Low turfgrass cover is typical of the site's north and east sides. Maintenance of the site should prevent larger vegetative growth.

1998.03.31

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

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