

## **FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT SWIMMING POOL (RR22A), ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY, COLWOOD, BC**

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FHBRO number: **99-137**  
DFRP number: **17452**  
Resource name: **Swimming Pool (RR22A)**  
Address: **Royal Roads University, Colwood, BC**  
FHBRO status: **“Recognized” Federal Heritage Building**  
Construction: **1959**  
Designer: **McCarter and Nairne Architects, Vancouver**  
Original function: **Swimming pool**  
Current function: **Swimming pool**  
Modifications: **Addition of an enclosed link leading to the Gymnasium; interior redesigned to include women’s change rooms and showers.**  
Custodian: **Department of National Defence**

### **Reasons for Designation**

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

#### Historical value:

The Swimming Pool is associated with the post-WWII expansion of the Canadian Armed Forces. The Swimming Pool was built during the site’s second phase of development of the Royal Roads University campus in order to fulfill the training requirements of the cadets and to foster physical fitness in the forces. The Swimming Pool also represents the establishment of more on-site training facilities independent of the community of Colwood and CFB Esquimalt.

#### Architectural value:

Modern in appearance, the Swimming Pool is an early example of the International Style in Canada. The two-storey, white concrete structure is composed of simple, horizontal cubic volumes, and features horizontal elements such as bands of ribbon windows running across the exterior elevations, flat roofs, and broad overhanging eaves. Constructed of good quality materials and craftsmanship that successfully integrate traditional wood elements and modern masonry elements, the building’s interior layout is simple and functional.

#### Environmental value:

The Swimming Pool is well integrated into its hillside site and is compatible with the surrounding forested area in a manner reminiscent of Alvar Alto’s architecture in Finland. The YMCA manages the Swimming Pool for use by the university and the local community, and as such, it is familiar to residents in the region.

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### Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of the Swimming Pool should be respected:

Its role as an illustration of the expansion of the Canadian Armed Forces during the Second World War, is reflected in:

- the building's construction as part of the establishment of officer training facilities.

Its International Style and good quality materials and craftsmanship as manifested in:

- the building's simple, horizontal cubic volumes emphasized by the smooth, white-concrete walls, the bands of ribbon windows, flat roofs, cantilevered stairs, and broad overhanging eaves;
- the simple and functional layout of the interior spaces;
- the successful integration of traditional wood elements such as the glue laminated timbers in the pool area with modern masonry elements such as the concrete surfaces and tile wainscoting; and,
- modern features such as the painted pipe handrails and modern light fixtures.

The building's compatibility with the rustic character of this area of the campus as evidenced in:

- its stepped-back siting which integrates it into the surrounding forest; and,
- its community function which makes it well known in the region.

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

January 2003

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GATEHOUSE LODGE, ROYAL ROADS UNIVERSITY, COLWOOD, BC**

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