

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

BUILDING 38 (GUARDHOUSE), NAVAL SUPPLY DEPOT, CFB ESQUIMALT, BC

FHBRO number: **00-003**
DFRP number: **17452**
Resource name: **Building 38 (Guardhouse)**
Address: **Naval Supply Depot, CFB Esquimalt, Colwood, BC**
FHBRO status: **“Recognized” Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **ca. 1938**
Designer: **Engineer Services Branch (Department of National Defence)**
Original function: **Guardhouse**
Current function: **Unchanged**
Modifications: **Minor interior modifications**
Custodian: **Department of National Defence**

Reasons for Designation

Building 38 (Guardhouse) is a “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values.

Historical value:

Building 38 (Guardhouse) is associated with the expansion of Canada’s navy on the west coast in the years immediately prior to the Second World War. It was built to control land access to the Colwood Joint Services Magazine (now the Naval Supply Depot) which stored munitions for the Canadian forces and the British navy during the war, and which since 1965, has housed the Fleet Diving Unit. As part of this larger complex, the building is also associated with the major shift in land use in the township of Colwood from private/civic use to military ownership and occupancy.

Architectural value:

Building 38 (Guardhouse) is a very well conceived and executed design. A one-storey brick structure, the building is characterized by well-balanced massing and classical detailing which create an appearance of solidity and strength appropriate for its function as a guardhouse. The balanced proportions of Building 38 can be attributed to the projecting end units that flank the central recessed entry, the regular placement of multi-paned windows, and the hipped roofline. A superior level of craftsmanship was employed in the execution of the entrance’s triple arches, and the brick bond pattern and detailing of the wall surfaces.

Environmental value:

Building 38 (Guardhouse) is located immediately adjacent to the south side of the main entrance road on a site with little formal site landscaping, and commands the main entrance to the Colwood Naval Supply Depot. Visually prominent by virtue of its function, location and distinctive design, Building 38 (Guardhouse) is compatible with the mixed military / utilitarian character of the adjacent buildings, and is familiar to those working at the Depot.

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Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of Building 38 (Guardhouse) should be respected:

Its role as an illustration of the expansion of Canada's navy on the west coast in the years immediately prior to the Second World War is reflected in:

- the building's prominent location at the entrance to the former Joint Services Magazine (now Colwood Naval Supply Depot.)

Its distinctive design and high quality materials and craftsmanship as manifested in:

- the well-balanced, three-part massing which consists of rectangular end units and a recessed centre block, with a covered porch over the central entry and articulated hipped roof;
- the classical proportions of the concrete plinth, wall surface, cornice treatment;
- the execution and detailing of the brickwork as seen in the entry's round-headed triple arches and columns, the stretcher bond pattern with recessed rows which simulates an ashlar surface, vertical soldier course and corbelled courses of the cornice and chimney; and,
- the regular pattern of six-over-six windows.

The compatibility of the building with the mixed military and utilitarian character of the CFB Esquimalt (Colwood) entrance and its landmark status, as evidenced in:

- its relationship with the cluster of service buildings near the entrance to the Colwood site; and,
- its visual prominence owing to its location, distinctive design and function as the main check point through which military personnel and visitors must pass to enter the site.

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

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