

FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDINGS REVIEW OFFICE

BENCHMARKREPORT: 10-84

TITLE: Four Buildings
Albert Head
Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt, B.C.

DFRP: 17431

SOURCE: Jennifer Cousineau, Cultural Sciences Branch

INTRODUCTION

The Department of National Defense (DND) has submitted the Radio Monitoring Station (AH1003), Sick Bay (AH1014), Kitchen Mess (AH1015), and Officers' Mess (AH1067) at Albert Head Battery in Albert Head, BC, to the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO) for evaluation of their heritage status. The buildings are all over 40 years old, and are being submitted as per Treasury Board Policy.

The Radio Monitoring Station (Figures 3-6) is a two-storey stucco building, constructed in 1955. It retains its original use. The Sick Bay (Figures 7-10) is a former CE Workshop built in 1940. It is a small, single-storey wood-frame structure. The Kitchen Mess (Figures 11-14) was built in 1940 as a mess. It is substantially larger than the Sick Bay, but shares its distinctive green coloration and board-and-batten wood cladding. The Officers Mess (Figures 14-16) is a former CGC (Cadet Camp) Residence, built in 1960. This building is a single-storey, white clapboard house.

Since the mid-1960s armed-forces unification, Albert Head Battery has been a component of CFB Esquimalt. It is currently used for training both Regular and Reserve units.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATIONS

Thematic

Two of the buildings under review at Albert Head – AH1014, the Sick Bay, and AH1015, the Kitchen Mess -- are associated with the theme of coastal defense during the Second World War. The other two – AH1003, the Radio Monitoring Station, and AH1067, the Officers Mess – are associated with the emergence of a large-scale, permanent military force after World War II in response to the Canadian government's commitments to NATO during the Cold War.

The guns at the Albert Head Battery (gun batteries not under review here) were the largest in the coastal defense system during the Second World War, even though the installation at Albert Head was much smaller than the installations at key points throughout the system, such as Signal Hill, Macaulay Point, and Fort Rodd Hill. The

Radio Monitoring Station and the Officers Mess at Albert Head reflect more recent, postwar directions in Canadian defense policy, and a transition from older forms of defense technology to the modern infrastructure of the Cold War period.

The Victoria-Esquimalt coastal defense system was created in the 19th century to protect the Royal Navy dockyard at Esquimalt (Figures 1, 2). The system was important for the security of Vancouver Island, which was vulnerable to attack by hostile warships. The first, temporary, batteries were installed in 1878, and these functioned over the next fifteen years, during which time a joint-defense agreement was negotiated between Canada and Britain.¹ This period in the region's military history was characterized by conflict over the respective tasks and obligations of Canada and Britain, but once a joint defense agreement was reached in 1893, an important period of construction began, resulting in an extensive fortification program around the Royal Navy dockyard.² Between 1894 and 1906, the British Royal Engineers constructed permanent masonry and concrete fortresses and gun emplacements armed with the most modern coastal artillery at Macaulay Point (1894), Rodd Hill (1895), Duntze Head (1899), and Black Rock (1899).³ During the last half of the nineteenth century, Albert Head was the site of an early sawmill between 1853 and 1859, and a federal government quarantine station, between 1883 and 1893.

The British left the coastal defense system in 1906, and in 1910, the Royal Canadian Navy was created. It was not for three full decades that the Esquimalt base and its associated defenses resumed the level of activity and significance they had enjoyed during the tenure of the Royal Navy. Canadian policy was to preserve the defense system as it was left behind by the British and to provide the local militia with a school of instruction so that it could use the artillery in case of need.⁴ The newly formed Royal Canadian Garrison Artillery Company and Fortress Company, Royal Canadian Engineers, maintained the guns.⁵ At their departure, the British abandoned a significant inventory of guns, stores, and equipment. The defense batteries were fully manned by the 5th (B.C.) Coast Regiment, though not tested, during the First World War.

After the First World War, Canada's defense budget shrank. After four years of war and considerable loss of life, Canadians wished to embrace peace and seemed to turn away all things military.⁶ The condition of the fixed coast defenses, in general, degenerated during the interwar period, despite the fact that they were still manned.⁷ The degeneration and

¹ For and in-depth discussion, see Ronald Lovatt, *A History of the Defense of Victoria and Esquimalt, 1846-1893*, Manuscript Report Series No. 426 (Ottawa: Parks Canada, 1980).

² Ian Doull, Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office Report 89-202, "Dockyard CFB Esquimalt (82 Buildings)", 28 and FHBRO Report 90-50, "Signal Hill Gun Emplacement," 2.

³ Abstracted from Jennifer Cousineau, FHBRO Report 10-87 "Radar Training Hut, former Black Rock Battery, CFB Esquimalt," 2.

⁴ Lovatt, *Shoot, Shoot, Shoot*, 53.

⁵ F.D. H. Nelson and N.E. Oliver, *CFB Esquimalt Military Heritage* (1982: CFB Esquimalt), 56-57.

⁶ Sections of this paper owe a significant debt to Joan Mattie, FHBRO Report 96-96 "Fort Rodd Hill and Fisgard Lighthouse National Historic Sites (20 Buildings)."

⁷ *Ibid*, 59.

neglect was reversed as the threat of war in Europe became apparent in the late 1930s. It was at this time that the Albert Head site was fortified in preparation for war under the Ultimate Plan of 1936. In light of a dismal review of the fortifications in the region, the Ultimate Plan recommended upgrades to the entire coastal defense system.⁸ As a result of a modest budget increases in 1936 and 1937, a new 9.2-inch battery was begun at Albert Head to replace the old one at Signal Hill.⁹ The full set of recommendations laid out in the Ultimate Plan, however, could not be immediately implemented because British weapons manufacturers were so overwhelmed with orders as Britain and the Commonwealth began to rearm. An Interim Plan was enacted until sufficient resources could be gathered to implement the earlier defensive strategy. By 1939, under the Interim Plan, Albert Head had two functioning 9.2-inch guns, which had been moved there from Signal Hill. Sometime between 1941 and 1945, a third was installed.¹⁰ The Albert Head Batteries had the heaviest guns on the west coast of Canada. Over the winter of 1940, wooden buildings (some of which are under review here), replaced the tents that had served as accommodation at the batteries.¹¹ On 4 August 1944, with peace looming, Albert Head battery was closed and personnel withdrawn; demilitarization in the region had begun. After the Japanese surrender in August 1945, the remaining batteries in the coastal defense system were closed.

After the end of World War II, the development of modern technologies and techniques of warfare rendered the fixed coast defenses obsolete, although it was not until 1957 that the coastal defense system created in 1893 was abandoned. After the war, there was a period of transition, but only a very small armed force was retained in the region. Live firing practice was recorded at the Albert Head site in 1947, signaling its transition to a postwar training facility/camp. During the Cold War, the site at Albert Head hosted twice-yearly winter and summer training camps for artillery regiments that included live-firing practice from the “Big Boys,” the 3.7 inch guns. After Pearl Harbour, ammunition had been stockpiled at Albert Head, and the postwar camps drew from these stores during practices. The training camps made use of the buildings erected during World War II to which several new buildings were added, including the Radio Monitoring Station (1955) and the Officers’ Mess (1960).¹²

In 1966, CFB Esquimalt was created, amalgamating 12 former army and navy sites in the Victoria-Esquimalt area, including the Albert Head site. The site continues to serve as a training area for regular and reserve units in the twenty-first century.

Person/Event

No person or event of historical importance is associated with the Albert Head buildings.

⁸ Lovatt, *Shoot*, Chapter 9.

⁹ Lovatt, *Shoot*, 84.

¹⁰ Lovatt, *Shoot*, 122.

¹¹ Lovatt, *Shoot*, 95.

¹² Personal communication with Col. (Ret) Cecil Berezowski, 8 August 2012, who was stationed at Albert Head during the second WW and participated in training camps there after the war. See also Cecil Berezowski, *Chronology of West Coast Security and Defences*, 2003, at the Esquimalt Archives.

Local Development

Albert Head developed in three broad phases. It had a significant pre-military history, an important function during World War II as part of the Victoria-Esquimalt coastal defense system, and a postwar identity as a Canadian Armed Forces training camp.

Before European contact Albert Head was known as Tleepet, and was inhabited by a subgroup of West Coast Salish called the Songhees. The Stsanges family group lived by the lagoon, which was once a popular fishing area.¹³

Albert Head was named by Captain Kellett, commander of a British surveying vessel, after Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg & Gotha, consort to Queen Victoria. Kellett chose the name because Albert Head is directly across what he called “Royal Bay” from the City of Victoria, named for the Queen (Figure 2).¹⁴ The first European to land at Albert Head, however, was not British but is believed to be the Spanish Sub Lieutenant Manuel Quimper, who explored the Juan de Fuca Strait with Lieutenant Eliza’s expedition on 18 July, 1790.¹⁵ His reports record that he named the site “Punto de San Miguel.”¹⁶ In 1853, former Hudson’s Bay Company Nanaimo officer-in-charge Joseph William McKay and provincial surveyor Joseph D. Pemberton established the Island Steam Sawmill Company at Albert Head.¹⁷ It was one of several sawmills in the broader region. The company owned between 700 and 1,000 acres of land in the Metchosin area, which was judged by a British surveyor to contain soil of very poor quality, unsuitable for agriculture.¹⁸ In 1859, the mill was destroyed by fire and the land was sold at auction in 1861.¹⁹

Between 1883 and 1893, Albert Head was the site of the federally operated Albert Head Quarantine Station. The principal building at the station (no longer extant) was designed by Thomas Fuller in 1885. The station was moved to William Head in 1893, because of an insufficient water supply, lack of accommodation for non-ailing passengers, and because Albert Head was viewed as being too close to Victoria.²⁰

It is not clear when the Albert Head site was acquired by the federal government. Among the earliest permanent army buildings recorded at Albert Head Battery for use by the

¹³ Songhee Nation of Canada Website, “Current History,” <http://www.songheesnation.com/html/history/current.htm>, accessed 13 August, 2012.

¹⁴ *GeoBC: BC Geographical Place Names*, <http://apps.gov.bc.ca/pub/bcgnws/names/696.html>, accessed 13 August, 2012.

¹⁵ Andrew Scott, *The Encyclopedia of West Coast Place Names* (Madeira Park, B.C.: Harbour Publishing, 2009), 38. Also see Metchosin Museum Society, “European Contact,” <http://metchosinmuseum.ca/coastal-history/european-contact/>, accessed 2 August, 2012.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, Metchosin Museum Society, “Spanish Cross.”

¹⁷ Jan Peterson, *Hub City: Nanaimo, 1886-1920* (Surrey, B.C.: Heritage House Publishing Company, 2003), 65.

¹⁸ *Minutes of Proceedings of a Select Committee of the House of Assembly* (Victoria: Harries and Company, 1864): n.p.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ It is approximately 30km by road from downtown Victoria. Geoffrey W. Burns, *A History of William Head* (William Head Institution, 1882), 14-16. Also see Linda M. Ambrose, “Quarantine in Question: The 1913 Investigation at William Head, B.C. (*CBMH/BCHM*, Volume 22:1, 2005), 139-153.

Canadian army are the wooden huts, including AH1014 Sick Bay and AH1015 Kitchen Mess, which were constructed in 1940 to replace the temporary tents used by army personnel since 1936. This was a significant turning point in the history of the base. Several more buildings were added over the course of the Second World War. The Radio Monitoring Station, although it was not actually constructed until 1955, appears on the Base Development Plan map produced in 1950. Modern radio technology was clearly part of the larger plan for the future of the base. The Officer's Mess of 1960 was part of the ongoing postwar evolution of the site as it evolved into a training camp for regular and reserve units of the Canadian army.

In summary, the Sick Bay, Kitchen Mess, and Radio Monitoring Station represent two important phases in the history of the site; the first two, the period when the base was first fortified in preparation for World War II, and the third, the postwar/Cold War development of new types of defense technologies and strategies. The Officer's Mess speaks less directly to a particular set of historical events related to the base.

ENVIRONMENT

Site

The military installation at Albert Head occupies the entire peninsula at Albert Head. The 88-acre site is closed to the general public; entry onto the site is prevented by the presence of a wire fence. Small groupings of trees and rocky areas cover most of the site not occupied by roads and buildings. Albert Head Road is the main road through the base, and bisects it horizontally. From Albert Head Road, some secondary side roads, and several small cul-de-sacs provide access to the building on site. A golf course and sports field are located just south of the most densely built-up area. Much closer to the water, the site contains a cemetery and a lighthouse. There are no other buildings close to the military installation at Albert Head.

The Sick Bay and Kitchen Mess are within the built-up area of Albert Head, while the Radio Monitoring Station is isolated on a slight rise north of Albert Head Road. The Officers Mess is furthest from the entry to the site, on a rocky rise close to eastern edge of the peninsula. The means of access to the site, as well as its main road, Albert Head Road, appear not to have been significantly altered since the 1940s, although many individual buildings have changed since the appearance of the first huts on the site.

Setting

The Albert Head site sits on a peninsula on the southeast coast of Vancouver Island that juts out into the Juan de Fuca Strait (Figures 1, 2, 3). It is surrounded by water on three sides, and faces the Victoria-Esquimalt military sites across the water. On the west side, to the south, is the community of Metchosin. To the northwest is the City of Colwood, just north of which is the former Royal Roads Military College, now Royal Roads University. The Albert Head site, although close in proximity, is visually and functionally isolated from the surrounding communities on the land side. It cannot be said to have exerted any influence on the buildings or places within the larger setting; its architecture

may have more in common with more distant military communities within the CFB Esquimalt system than with more physically proximate places.

Landmark

There is no public access to the buildings at the Albert Head site. The buildings because of their colour and relatively small scale, tend to be unobtrusive, though those closest to the water are undoubtedly visible from it. Some buildings can be glimpsed from outside the fence at the entrance to the base, but overall, the site does not have a high visual profile. Susan Green, the Heritage Registrar for British Columbia, was notified about the evaluations of the buildings under review, and had no comment for the report.²¹

Individual Building Reports

AH1003

Original Use: Radio Monitoring Station

Current Use: Radio Monitoring Station

1955

ARCHITECTURE

Aesthetic Design

The Radio Monitoring Station is a modestly sized building of 3,534 square feet, consisting of two distinct parts (Figures 3-6). The lower section, consisting of a flat-roofed, concrete-and-stucco structure built into the side of a hill, was constructed in 1955. In 1974, a second, smaller, side-gable, grey stucco building was added over the northeast side of the first. Both parts of the building are extremely utilitarian and do not appear to express a particular architectural style. The flat roof of the first building is probably a result of the desire to conceal the building, which is on elevated ground, rather than a reference to what had by then become a hallmark element of modernist architecture. The two sections of the building are not particularly well integrated with each other from a visual perspective, although the earlier, flat roofed section has an interesting relationship to the landscape, into which, from some vantage points, it seems to disappear.

Functional Design

The Radio Monitoring Station has two full floors of usable space in addition to a small basement containing a generator and boiler room (Figure 6). The 1955 ground floor is of roughly rectangular shape containing three large rooms and six smaller ones, divided into two sections. A small secondary entrance leads into the northeast section of the building, where there is a large storage room and two washrooms. The main entrances, along the same wall as the secondary entrance, open onto a receiving room and, through a small hallway, four storage rooms. The second floor (in the later structure), is almost square and contains 5 rooms, four of which open onto a small hallway. The second floor is accessed up concrete stairs from ground level on the far side of the northeast façade.

²¹ Email to Susan Green, Heritage Registrar for British Columbia, Wednesday, 2 August 2012.

A second entrance opens into the largest room on the floor, the teletype room. The designers of both sections of the building have attempted to provide users with natural light. Small strips of windows open the ground floor in at least two places, and the second storey has at least three windows across the main façade.

The ground floor of the Radio Monitoring Station is used for storage by the Defense Research Establishment Pacific (D.R.E.P.) The second floor is used by the local radio club to maintain personal communication with servicemen at sea during the evenings.²²

The Radio Monitoring Station appears to be quite functional, having retained its original use for over 50 years.

Craftsmanship and Materials

The materials employed in the Radio Monitoring Station appear to be fairly standard for utilitarian military construction in the period. The building has a concrete foundation. The lower section is wood frame with concrete walls, while the second floor structure is wood frame with concrete and stucco cladding. The roof is finished in asbestos shingles. A variety of utilitarian finishes can be found inside the building.

Designer

The designer of the Radio Monitoring Station is unknown.

ENVIRONMENT

Site

The Radio Monitoring Station is located on an isolated rocky site with mature trees screening it to the south, and areas of areas of grass, scrub, and exposed rock to the north (Figure 4). A paved road that becomes a smaller gravel pathway leads to the front entrance staircase, as well as to the opposite side of the building. Since the construction of the upper section in 1974, the main entrance to the building has changed from the ground level entrances to the upper level entrances. The ground level entrances are still used to access the storage spaces. The orientation of the original building is not entirely clear, but it appears to be a landward orientation, at odds with the current orientation of the upper section of the building, which is toward the Juan de Fuca Strait.

Setting

This building is relatively isolated from other buildings at Albert Head (Figure 3). The more traditional green clapboard buildings are at some distance to the southeast. Its setting is a natural one. The building appears not to have either exerted influence on other buildings at the base, nor has it absorbed the influence of other buildings.

Landmark

As the sole building dedicated to its purpose, the Radio Monitoring Station may be singular, however, since only those involved with the workings of local radio

²² FHBRO Submission materials from the Department of National Defense, 2010.

communications or those making use of the storage space are likely to use the building, it is probably not well-known among the Albert Head population. It is almost certainly little known to the broader public in the region. Susan Green, the Heritage Registrar for British Columbia, was notified about the evaluation of the Radio Monitoring Station and had no comment for the report.²³

AH1014

Original Use: CE Workshop

Current Use: Sick Bay

1940

ARCHITECTURE

Aesthetic Design

The Sick Bay is a small (467 square feet), one-storey building with two intersecting gable front roofs (Figures 7-10). The building's most striking feature is its distinctive green vertical board and batten cladding. It has a traditional, rather than modern appearance, due to its pitched roof and exterior cladding. The appearance of the building is consistent with military construction in the region during World War II. Similar wood-frame and wood-clad structures were built at Work Point in the 1940s. The building has 8 windows and is devoid of ornament. Its function as a medical clinic is signaled by large red and white cross signs on the front and sides of the building.

Functional Design

The plan of the Sick Bay has a simple, squat rectangular shape, and an open interior (Figure 10). Only one large room with an examination bed, and one small side room are contained within the plan. The Sick Bay is a clinic-style facility and was built for another use entirely. It appears to be functional, flexible and in good overall condition. The interior is well lit for the purpose by natural light from the windows placed in every wall.

The Sick Bay appears to fulfill its limited function efficiently.

Craftsmanship and Materials

The Sick Bay is a wood-frame building clad in green, vertical board-and-batten pattern wood siding. It has an asphalt shingle roof. The materials are very standard for their period and location. They appear to have been well maintained and are in good condition, especially given the fact that the building was built as a temporary building more than sixty years ago.

Designer

The designer of the Sick Bay has not been determined.

²³ Email to Susan Green, Heritage Registrar for British Columbia, Wednesday, 2 August 2012.

ENVIRONMENT

Site

The Sick Bay has two entrances on the front, street side of the building, the main entrance up three stairs under an extended section of the gable roof (Figure 7). Both entrances open directly onto a paved parking area on a secondary road. The building is otherwise surrounded by clipped lawns, with its rear elevation facing a screen of mature trees.

It does not appear that any significant changes have been made to this building, and its relationship to its site has likely remained stable over time.

Setting

The Sick Bay is part of the most densely built-up area of the site, just southeast of the main entrance. It is accessed via a turn off Albert Head Road (Figure 3). Larger buildings with direct access to Albert Head Road obscure it from view on Albert Head Road itself. Northwest of the Sick Bay are two large, H-plan barracks. The Kitchen Mess building which is larger, but is also clad in green batten board, is one building away.

Other buildings on the site also share the materials and construction methods of the Sick Bay. This building, along with the Kitchen Mess was among the earliest to be built at Albert Head. They may have had some influence on subsequent construction, though, as can be seen in the analysis of the Radio Monitoring Station and the Officers Mess, some buildings on the base bore no resemblance whatsoever to the early base architecture. Limited influence of the buildings can be seen at Albert Head.

Landmark

It is likely that most military personnel at Albert Head are aware of the location of the Sick Bay, however, only those who are ill are likely to use the building. It is not a highly visible building, nor is it in a busy location. It is almost certainly little known to the broader public in the region because the base is closed to the public. Susan Green, the Heritage Registrar for British Columbia, was notified about the evaluation of the Sick Bay and had no comment for the report.²⁴

AH1015

Original Use: Mens' Mess

Current Use: Kitchen Mess

1940

ARCHITECTURE

Aesthetic Design

The Kitchen Mess is a large (3319 sq. ft), elongated L-shaped building (Figures 11-14). It has a concrete foundation and wood-frame and is clad in the distinctive green-painted vertical board-and-batten pattern wood siding that characterizes the temporary huts

²⁴ Email to Susan Green, Heritage Registrar for British Columbia, Wednesday, 2 August 2012.

constructed during the major expansion of phase of Albert Head during the Second World War. The building has no ornament but is distinguished by a prominent monitor roof (Figures 11, 12) over one section of the L. The other section (above the men's dining hall) has a hipped roof. The building has a pleasant, utilitarian, and fairly traditional appearance, due to its materials and roof types.

Functional Design

The L-shaped plan of the Kitchen Mess has a very logical layout (Figure 14). Half of one L contains a large kitchen, which is separated by an entrance hallway from a smaller Officers' dining room. Service rooms, offices, and storage rooms can also be found in this section. The other part of the L contains only the men's dining room. The building also houses a cold storage room, offices, and services. Each part of the plan is served by its own entrance, with six in all. The Officers' dining room has two, the men's dining hall a single door, and the foyer, and the kitchen have one each. The section of the L containing the kitchen and the Officer's dining hall benefit from a roof designed to bring a maximum amount of light into the building through the clerestory windows.

The Kitchen Mess appears to have served the needs of the community well for the past seven decades, and the building continues to serve its original function as a mess building. The different roofs over the two parts of the plan suggest that the base of the L is a later addition to the original building, but the sources are silent on this question.

Craftsmanship and Materials

The Kitchen Mess is a wood-frame building clad in green, vertical board-and-batten pattern wood siding. It has an asphalt shingle roof. The materials are very standard for their period and location. They appear to have been well maintained and are in good condition, especially given the fact that they were built as temporary buildings more than sixty years ago.

Designer

The designer of this building has not been determined.

ENVIRONMENT

Site

The Kitchen Mess is surrounded by well-tended lawns (Figures 11-13). A paved walking pathway around three sides of the building provides access to the entrances to the Officers dining hall and the men's dining hall. The Officers' dining hall is accessed directly from the path, while the men's dining hall, on a slight incline, is elevated, and can be reached by climbing one of two metal staircases. The service entrances on the other side of the building have the benefit of a large paved parking lot. The fourth side of the building is screened by mature trees. If (as the different roof structures suggest) the men's dining hall is an addition, then the orientation as well as methods of egress will have changed significantly since the building was originally constructed.

Setting

The Kitchen Mess is separated by only one building from the Sick Bay, and like the Sick Bay, is set within the built-up section of Albert Head (Figure 3). For practical reasons, it is relatively close to the barracks buildings further to the east. It is south of Albert Head Road and screened from view from the road by buildings 1017, 1018, and 1018. These share the same roof and cladding materials, and though slightly smaller, a similar scale and elongated plan. As one of the earliest buildings at Albert Head, the Kitchen Mess appears to have had some influence upon the buildings subsequently built in the setting.

Landmark

Most of the personnel at Albert Head would be aware of the location of the Kitchen, since most would take their meals there on a daily basis. It is likely one of the better-known buildings at Albert Head. Though set somewhat back from the main road, it is a large building, and with its prominent monitor roof, is taller than some others. It is almost certainly little known to the broader public in the region because the base is closed to the public. Susan Green, the Heritage Registrar for British Columbia, was notified about the evaluation of the Kitchen Mess and had no comment for the report.²⁵

AH1067

Original Use: CGC Residence

Current Use: Officers' Mess

1960

ARCHITECTURE

Aesthetic Design

The Officers Mess is a modest, single-storey, side-gable house of 224.3 square metres (Figures 15-17). It has small projecting front and rear entrances topped by a gable, each accessed up exposed exterior staircases. Its bright red asphalt shingle roof presents a lively visual contrast with its simple white, horizontal wood siding. The design of the house is unselfconscious and straightforward, with no extraneous ornament and no detectable references to a particular historical style or local building tradition. This type of standardized house might have appeared anywhere in Canada in the 1960s.

Functional Design

The plan of the Officers Mess is a simple rectangle with a mostly open interior (Figure 17). The main entrance on the east side of the building opens onto the large open space of what is now a multi-purpose games room. A small lounge is located in the northwest quadrant of the plan, and a stair-hall beside it leads to the basement. The main floor has windows on all sides providing the interior with natural light; the front windows also offer a pleasant view of the Juan de Fuca Strait. The building appears to be in reasonable condition and is currently occupied.

²⁵ Email to Susan Green, Heritage Registrar for British Columbia, Wednesday, 2 August 2012.

Craftsmanship and Materials

Building AH1067 has an exposed concrete foundation, a wood frame and white-painted horizontal wood siding (Figure 16). Its roof is standard asphalt shingles with only their red colour to distinguish them from other roofs of the same material at Albert Head. Front and rear staircases are wood and of utilitarian construction. Windows are of three standard types, slider, awning, and fixed. Little care appears to have been given to establishing a consistent appearance as far as fenestration is concerned. The materials are functional and durable but neither the level of craftsmanship nor the materials themselves rise above the ordinary.

Designer

The designer of this building has not been determined.

ENVIRONMENT

Site

AH1067 sits on a sloping site that descends toward the Juan de Fuca Strait (Figure 16). The terrain around it is fairly open and rocky with some patchy grass and scrub and scattered groupings of trees and bush to the north and south. A pathway from the end of the main road leads to the rear entrance staircase, which, although it is not the main entrance from the perspective of the form of the house, may function as such because of the placement of the house facing the water, with its rear to the access road. No changes appear to have been made to this building as regards its relationship to its surroundings.

Setting

The Officers Mess is located near the end of the peninsula, at a considerable distance from the built-up section of the base (Figure 3). It is connected to the rest of the site by the paved access road that leads past it almost to the waterfront. There are only a few small buildings in the immediate vicinity of the Officers Mess, at least one of which (AH 1068, not evaluated here) resembles it inasmuch as it is a single-storey, pitch-roof, white, wooden building. AH1068, a former CGC engine room and fog alarm also constructed in 1960, is now a storage shed is located nearer the water, at the very end of the access road. It is not clear that the Officers Mess building has had any substantial influence on the broader character of the Albert Head site, in particular because it is one of the most recent additions to it.

Landmark

This building, while the most visually available from the Juan de Fuca Strait, would be one of the least visible from the land side, and perhaps overall least well-known to both the public and to those on the Albert Head site. It is used exclusively by officers, and therefore not available to most of the temporary residents. Susan Green, the Heritage Registrar for British Columbia, was notified about the evaluation of the Officers Mess and had no comment for the report.²⁶

²⁶ Email to Susan Green, Heritage Registrar for British Columbia, Wednesday, August 2012.

FOUR BUILDINGS, ALBERT HEAD, CFB ESQUIMALT

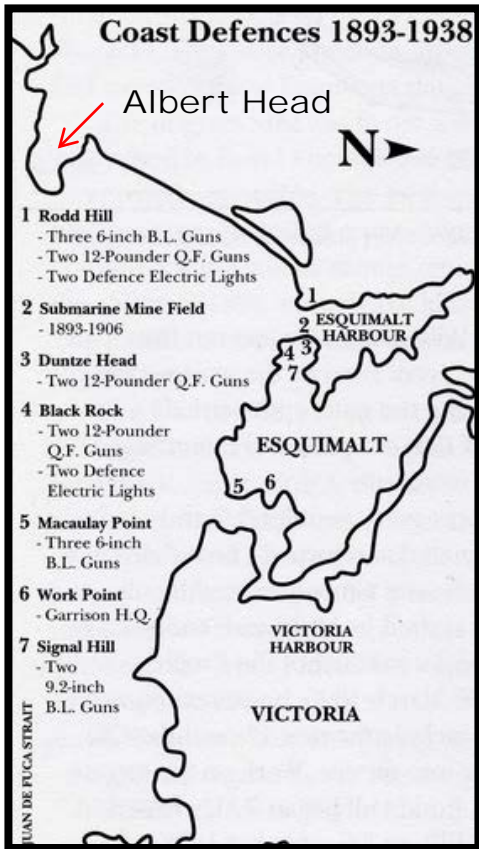


Figure 1. Pacific coast defence installations, 1893-1939 (R. Lovatt, *Shoot, Shoot, Shoot: A History of the Victoria-Esquamalt Coast Artillery Defences 1878-1956* (Rodd Hill Friends Society, 1993), 32).



Figure 2. Pacific coast defence installations, 1893-1939 (Lovatt, *Shoot, Shoot, Shoot*, 98).

FOUR BUILDINGS, ALBERT HEAD, CFB ESQUIMALT

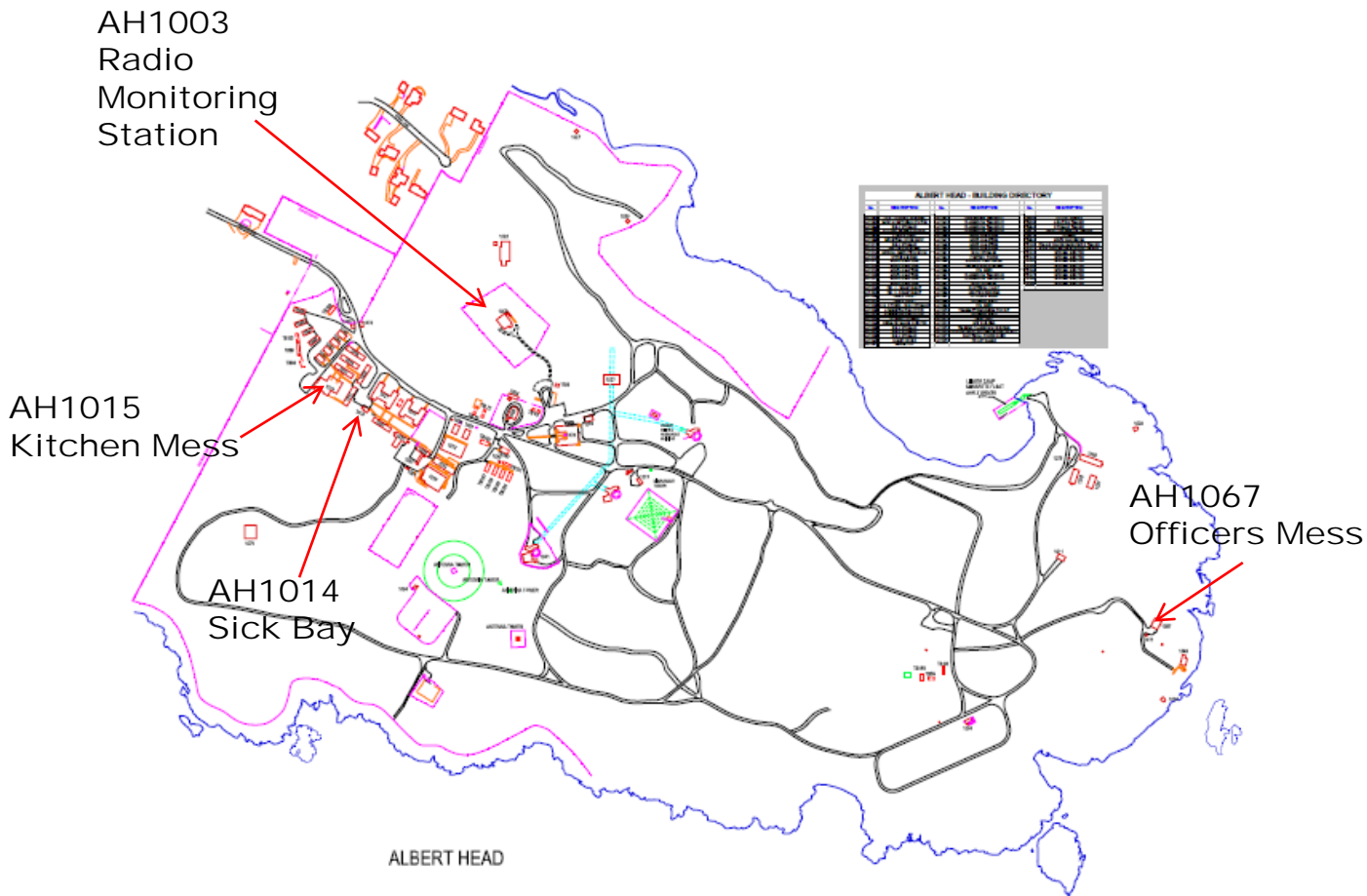


Figure 3. Radio Monitoring Station AH1003, Sick Bay AH1014, Kitchen Mess AH1015, Officers Mess AH1067 (DND, 2011).

FOUR BUILDINGS, ALBERT HEAD, CFB ESQUIMALT



Figure 4. AH1003, Radio Monitoring Station, Albert Head, 1955 (DND, 2011).



Figure 5. AH1003, Radio Monitoring Station, Albert Head, 1955 (DND, 2011).

FOUR BUILDINGS, ALBERT HEAD, CFB ESQUIMALT

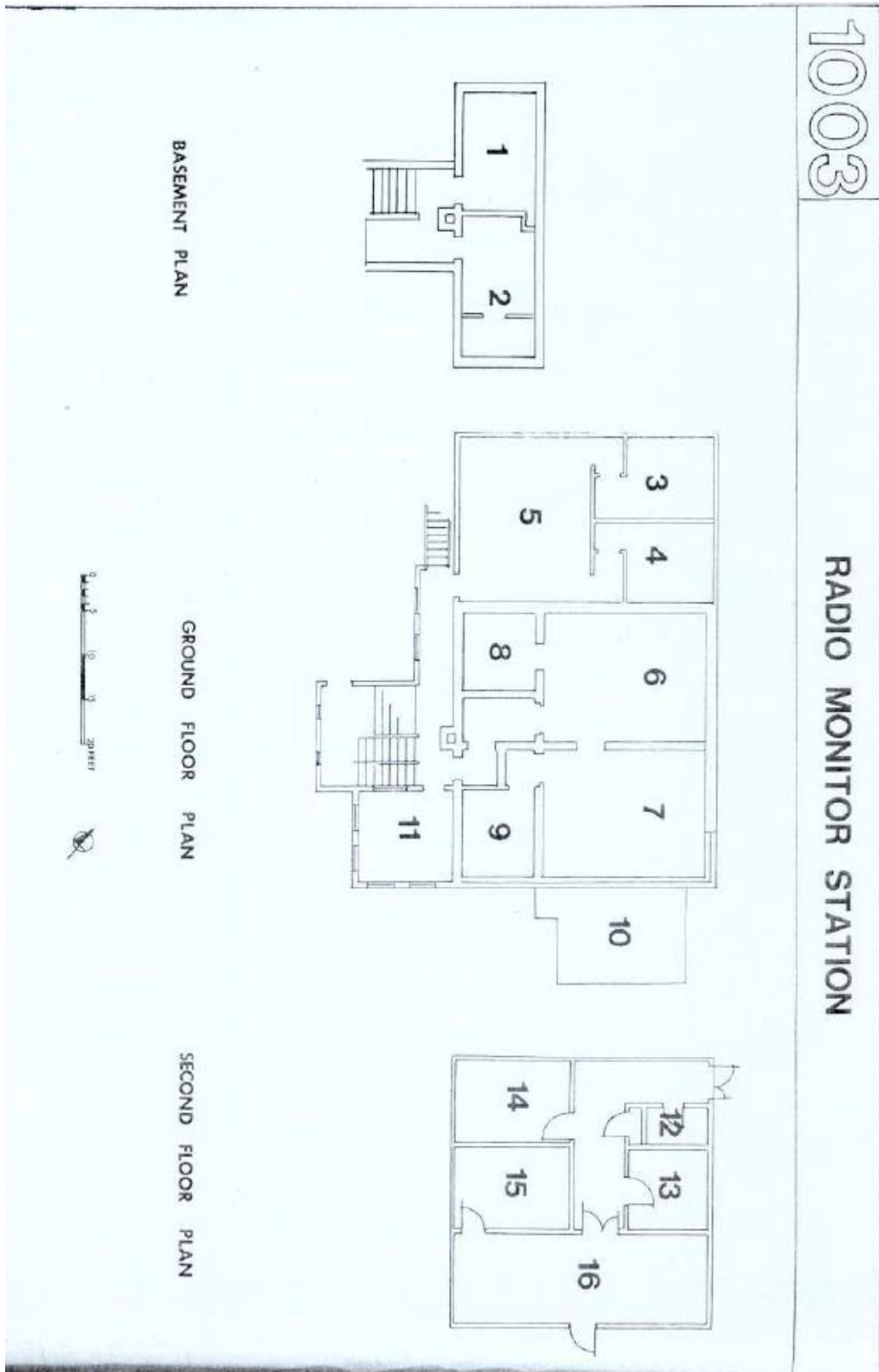


Figure 6. Plan, Radio Monitoring Station, Albert Head, 1955 (DND, 2011).

FOUR BUILDINGS, ALBERT HEAD, CFB ESQUIMALT



Figure 7. AH1014, Sick Bay, Albert Head, 1940 (DND, 2011).



Figure 8. AH1014, Rear and side elevation, Sick Bay, Albert Head, 1940 (DND, 2011).

FOUR BUILDINGS, ALBERT HEAD, CFB ESQUIMALT



Figure 9 AH1014, Sick Bay, Albert Head, 1940 (DND, 2011).

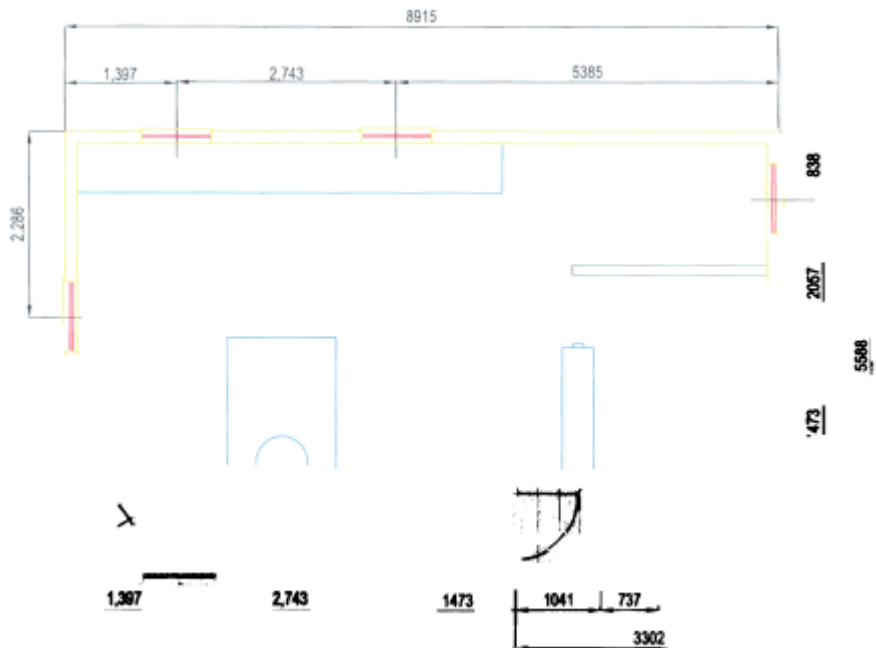


Figure 10. Plan, Sick Bay, Albert Head, 1940 (DND, 2011).

FOUR BUILDINGS, ALBERT HEAD, CFB ESQUIMALT



Figure 11. AH1015, Kitchen Mess, Albert Head, 1940 (DND, 2011).



Figure 12. AH1015, Rear elevation, Kitchen Mess, Albert Head, 1940 (DND, 2011).

FOUR BUILDINGS, ALBERT HEAD, CFB ESQUIMALT

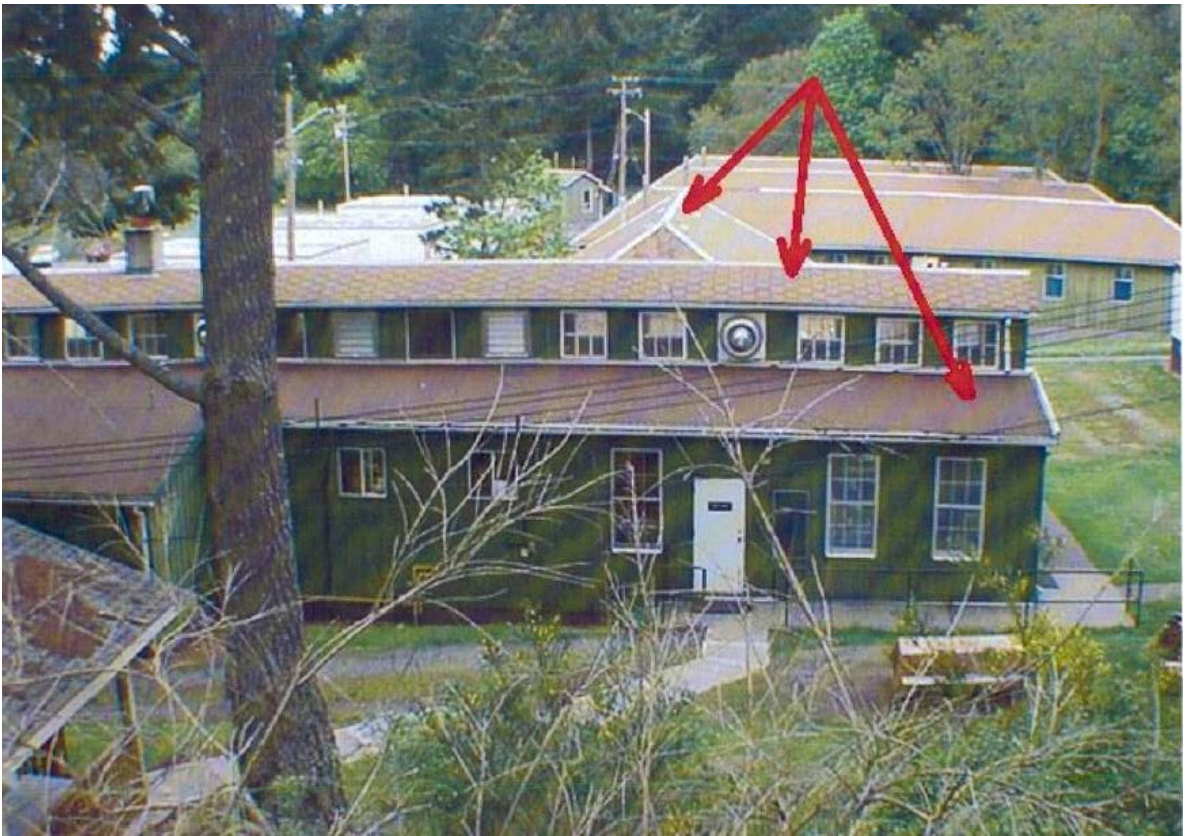


Figure 13. AH1015, Kitchen Mess, 1940 (DND, 2011).

FOUR BUILDINGS, ALBERT HEAD, CFB ESQUIMALT

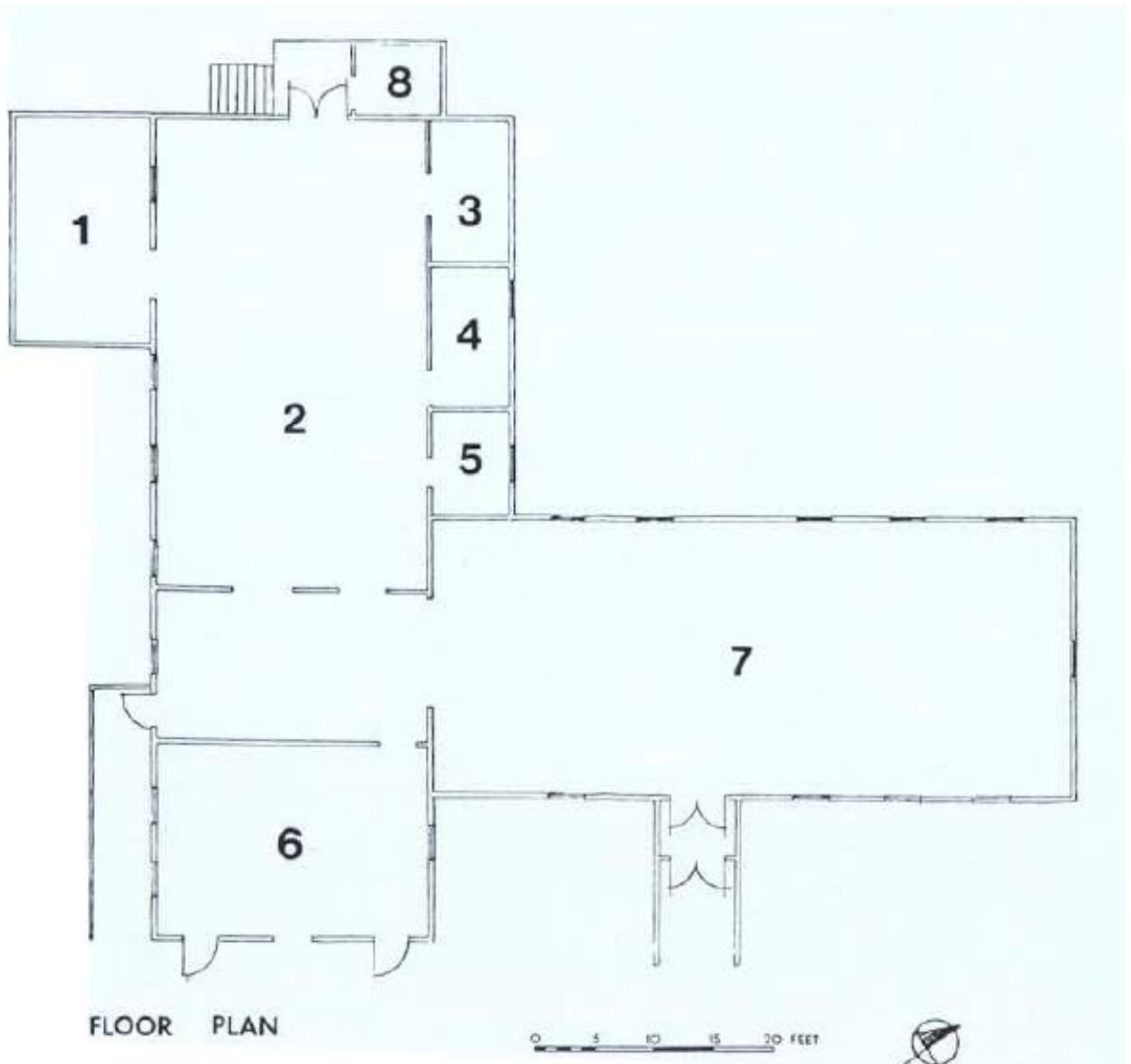


Figure 14. Plan, AH1015, Kitchen Mess, Albert Head, 1940 (DND, 2011).

FOUR BUILDINGS, ALBERT HEAD, CFB ESQUIMALT



Figure 15. Officers Mess, Albert Head, 1960 (DND, 2011).



Figure 16. Front elevation, Officers Mess, Albert Head, 1960 (DND, 2011).

FOUR BUILDINGS, ALBERT HEAD, CFB ESQUIMALT



Figure 17. Plan, Officers Mess, Albert Head, 1960 (DND, 2011).

FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDINGS REVIEW OFFICE

BENCHMARK SCORE

Comparative for: **FHBRO Report no: 10-84**
Building name/no : **Kitchen Mess, AH 1015, Albert Head,**
CFB Esquimalt, B.C.



Building: Herdsman’s Cottage, RR 16, Royal Roads/Hatley Park, Colwood, B.C.

FHBRO No: 99-98

Score:	Thematic.....	5
	Person/Event.....	0
	Local Development.....	6
	Aesthetic Design.....	0
	Functional Design.....	0
	Craftsmanship and Materials.....	0
	Designer.....	2
	Site.....	6
	Setting.....	8
	Landmark.....	0
	TOTAL.....	27

FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDINGS REVIEW OFFICE

BENCHMARK SCORE

Comparative for: **FHBRO Report no: 10-84**
Building name/no : **Officers' Mess (AH 1067), Albert Head,**
CFB Esquimalt, B.C.



Building: Spare Keeper's Dwelling, Carmanah Point Lightstation, B.C.

FHBRO No: 99-125

Score:	Thematic.....	5
	Person/Event.....	0
	Local Development.....	0
	Aesthetic Design.....	9
	Functional Design.....	5
	Craftsmanship and Materials.....	4
	Designer.....	2
	Site.....	6
	Setting.....	8
	Landmark.....	5
	TOTAL.....	44

FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDINGS REVIEW OFFICE

BENCHMARK SCORE

Comparative for: FHBRO Report no: 10-84
Building name/no : Radio Monitoring Station, AH 1003,
Albert Head, CFB Esquimalt, B.C.



Building: Seamanship Instruction, Bldg. 60, Naden, CFB Esquimalt, B.C.

FHBRO No: 89-204

Score:	Thematic.....	8
	Person/Event.....	0
	Local Development.....	4
	Aesthetic Design.....	0
	Functional Design.....	5
	Craftsmanship and Materials.....	4
	Designer.....	0
	Site.....	4
	Setting.....	8
	Landmark.....	5
	TOTAL.....	38

FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDINGS REVIEW OFFICE

BENCHMARK SCORE

Comparative for: **FHBRO Report no: 10-84**
Building name/no : **Sick Bay, AH 1014, Albert Head, CFB**
Esquimalt, B.C.



Building: Bldg 223, former Quarters Building, Dockyard, CFB Esquimalt, B.C.

FHBRO No: 89-202

Score:	Thematic.....	5
	Person/Event.....	0
	Local Development.....	0
	Aesthetic Design.....	0
	Functional Design.....	5
	Craftsmanship and Materials.....	4
	Designer.....	0
	Site.....	6
	Setting.....	8
	Landmark.....	0
	TOTAL.....	24