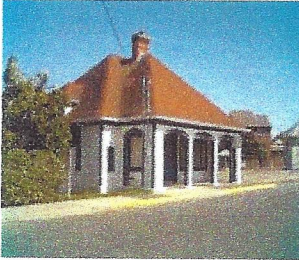




Work Point Guard House

445 Head Street, Esquimalt, British Columbia, Canada

Formally Recognized: 2011/06/20



455 Head Street, Work Point Guard House



OTHER NAME(S)

n/a

LINKS AND DOCUMENTS

n/a

CONSTRUCTION DATE(S)

1890/01/01 to 1891/01/01

LISTED ON THE CANADIAN REGISTER: 2017/01/12

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

The Work Point Guard House is a one-storey wood frame structure located at the southern end of Head Street, at the entrance to the Work Point Barracks in Esquimalt, British Columbia. The building has a steeply-pitched hipped roof, a masonry chimney and a prominent arched veranda on the south elevation. The building remains in its original location, however the land upon which it stands, formerly included within the boundaries of the military base, has been transferred to private ownership.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Work Point Guard House has great historical, architectural, social and cultural significance to the Township of Esquimalt.

Constructed in 1890-91 on land that was the principal access point to the newly-established Work Point Barracks and Garrison Headquarters, this building served as an integral part of the military establishment in Esquimalt for over a century. It was used to control access to the barracks, provide facilities for security personnel and as a detainment facility. The building includes four short term detainment compounds with cement and brick walls over two feet thick. It was a silent witness to the departure of many military personnel to serve in the Boer War, the Great War, World War 2, the Korean War and numerous peacekeeping missions over the years.

The Work Point Guard House is valued as one of the last surviving Guard Houses of this design in Canada; the other two are in Quebec and Nova Scotia. It was designed by the Department of Public Works, based on preliminary sketches by architect Henry James of the Department of Militia and Defense. This was one of the first buildings constructed during the founding stage of Work Point Barracks, 1887 to 1891, and was built using fir from the large stands of trees felled at Work Point by C Battery. Minor modifications to the exterior have included construction of the rear annex and the removal