



# Naden Museum Square, Building 20

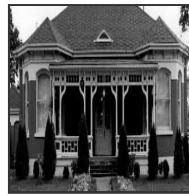
## Recognized Federal Heritage Building

Esquimalt, British Columbia



Façade

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**Address :** Naden Museum Square, CFB Esquimalt - Naden, Esquimalt, British Columbia

**Recognition Statute:** Treasury Board Policy on Management of Real Property

**Designation Date:** 1990-03-01

**Dates:** 1891 to 1891 (Construction)

**Event, Person, Organization:** John Teague (Architect)

**Other Name(s):** Former Officer's Ward (Other Name)

**Custodian:** National Defence

**FHBRO Report Reference:** 88-154

**DFRP Number:** 17406 00

### Description of Historic Place

Building 20, part of Naden Museum Square in Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt, also known as the Former Officer's Ward, stands back from a road, and faces a formal lawn and gardens. The building is a one-storey, rectangular, brick structure of low massing with a hipped roof, and a verandah with decorative woodwork. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

### Heritage Value

Building 20 is a Recognized Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values.

#### Historical Value

Building 20 is a good example of a building constructed as an integral part of the original Royal Naval Hospital complex, an essential service for Esquimalt as the headquarters of the Pacific station of the Royal Navy from 1865 to 1905. On loan to the Military Hospitals Commission, it subsequently served as part of the Esquimalt Military Convalescent Hospital from 1915-1922. From 1922 until the mid-1930s, the former hospital buildings housed the first west-coast Royal Canadian Navy training establishment as part of HMCS Naden.

#### Architectural Value

Building 20 represents a significant phase in the evolution of hospital planning and design. The complex is a rare surviving Canadian example of a 'pavilion hospital', a building type popular in the late 18th and 19th centuries designed to counter overcrowding and the spread of disease through improved ventilation and a greater separation of functions.

## Environmental Value

Building 20 stands within the original Royal Naval Hospital complex and reinforces the military character of the Canadian Forces Base at Esquimalt. Complementing its adjacent buildings, Building No. 20 is carefully integrated into its well-planned setting. Its exterior façades and its integrated setting within the surviving Royal Navy Hospital complex define the building.

Sources: Ian Doull, Museum Square, (Former Royal Naval Hospital, Seven Buildings), Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt, British Columbia, Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office, Report 88-154; Museum Square – Building No. 20, CFB Esquimalt, Esquimalt, British Columbia. Heritage Character Statement 88-154.

## Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of Building 20 should be respected.

Its functional design and good quality materials and craftsmanship, for example: the low massing and symmetry of the one-storey, rectangular, hipped-roofed brick building; the projecting bays and the segmentally arched windows with stone surrounds; the double front door, and the verandah with decorative woodwork and railing on the main elevation.

The manner in which Building 20 reinforces the present character of Museum Square within Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt as evidenced by: its architectural vocabulary consistent with the other buildings of the hospital complex.

## Heritage Character Statement

**Disclaimer** - The heritage character statement was developed by FHBRO to explain the reasons for the designation of a federal heritage building and what it is about the building that makes it significant (the heritage character). It is a key reference document for anyone involved in planning interventions to federal heritage buildings and is used by FHBRO in their review of interventions.

Building No. 20, the Officers' Ward within the original Royal Naval Hospital complex, was constructed in 1891 to the designs of Victoria architect John Teague. It subsequently served as part of the Esquimalt Military Convalescent Hospital, operated on the same site by the Military Hospitals Commission from 1915 to 1922. In 1922, HMCS Naden was established as a west coast naval training complex by the Royal Canadian Navy, and this training complex continues as an important component of modern-day CFB Esquimalt. Building No. 20 served in succession as the Naden Commander's residence, offices, and schools. It is presently the base museum. The custodial department is National Defence. See FHBRO Building Report 88-154.

## Reason for Designation

Building No. 20 at CFB Esquimalt has been designated a Recognized heritage property because of its historical associations, its design, and its role as part of a significant institutional complex.

Historically, it was an integral part of the 1887-1894 Royal Naval Hospital complex, an essential service in maintaining Esquimalt as the headquarters of the Pacific station of the Royal Navy from 1865 to 1905. This was one of thirteen hospitals maintained by the Admiralty in Britain and abroad. From 1915 to 1922, when the complex was on loan to the Military Hospitals Commission, it became an element of this important national medical program set up to care for World War I casualties and service personnel suffering from tuberculosis. From 1922 through the mid-1930s, the former hospital buildings housed the first west coast Royal Canadian Navy training establishment, illustrating the evolution of Canadian control over all aspects of national defence. This function, as part of HMCS Naden, continues to the present day.

Architecturally, the building represents a significant phase in the evolution of hospital planning and design. The complex it is part of is a rare surviving Canadian example of a "pavilion hospital," a building type popular in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to counter overcrowding and the spread of disease through improved ventilation and greater separation of functions. Building No. 20 survives relatively intact, a well-crafted building in the Picturesque style with some of its associated landscape features intact.

## Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of Building No. 20 is defined by its exterior and by its landscaped setting. The

interior layout, which has survived virtually intact, is also of interest.

The building is a one-storey brick structure. The exterior, in the Picturesque style, is marked by a hipped roof, projecting bays on the main elevation, and a verandah with decorative woodwork. The raised foundation, the bracketed cornice, and the segmentally-arched windows with stone surrounds, as well as the hipped roof and verandah, give it an architectural vocabulary consistent with the other original buildings of the hospital complex. The railing detail is somewhat more elaborate, and may be the only original example to have survived. There have been some modifications over time, including the removal of the four massive brick chimneys, the change from cedar roof shingles to asphalt shingles, the bricking in of a few window openings, and the addition of a small washroom on the west façade.

These changes have not compromised the integrity of the original architectural design, and the building should be carefully maintained to preserve its original materials, proportions and detailing. When replacement of items such as roof finish is required, consideration should be given to reinstating original materials where these have been replaced, using historic documentation to ensure accuracy.

The landscaped setting is particularly important to buildings in the Picturesque style. Surviving elements of the original landscape design should be maintained, and every opportunity taken to restore period landscape features based on historic evidence.

The interior retains the original central corridor with adjacent rooms divided by masonry walls and fireplaces. This layout should be maintained if possible as part of the structural and architectural character of the building.

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