

78 Years of Active Service

In 1878 the original Victoria - Esquimalt Coast Defence Fortification System was made up of four batteries that protected the entrance to Victoria and Esquimalt. They included Fort Macaulay, Finlayson Point, Victoria Point, and Brother's Island.



The Coastal Defence Fortification System evolved locally by adding numerous artillery batteries and searchlight sites from Church Hill (near Sooke) to Gonzales Hill (in Oak Bay), including Fort Rodd Hill and eventually right up the west coast. Coastal defences protected the west coast until after the second world war.



Fort Macaulay was the longest serving component of the Victoria-Esquimalt Coast Defence Fortification System, being continuously manned from 1878 until being declared obsolete in 1956. This photo below shows the BC Brigade of the Garrison Artillery circa 1886.

A three-gun temporary earthworks and wooden platform battery was erected at this location in 1878 in response to the British - Russian crisis in the Balkans. The original 1878 battery was constructed on the shoreline of Macaulay Point to protect Victoria and Esquimalt harbours and was manned by local militia units and "C" Battery - Royal Regiment of Canadian Artillery.

Fort Macaulay was in active use from 1878 through 1956. It was a coastal defence battery and also used for military training. The soldiers from the 5th BC Regiment Canadian Artillery at right are training on the Maxim Machine gun in 1895.



Fort Macaulay is unique in that it retained its original character within Work Point Barracks until it became an integral part of Esquimalt's Macaulay Point Park. The Township has leased the land for the park from the Department of National Defence since 1985. In 2013 Fort Macaulay was placed on the Township of Esquimalt's Heritage List.



Remnants of some of the old buildings are located around Macaulay Point Park. Use the map in this brochure to guide your walk back in time.

Welcome to Historic Fort Macaulay



For more information about historic Fort Macaulay visit the Esquimalt Municipal Archives located at 1149A Esquimalt Road, Esquimalt, BC, or visit us online at esquimalt.ca/archives

For more information on Esquimalt Parks, visit esquimalt.ca/parks

Also visit workpoint.opcmh.ca for historic information on Fort Macaulay.

1878 to 1956

Fort Macaulay was the longest serving component of the Victoria-Esquimalt Coast Defence Fortification System.

This brochure produced by the Township of Esquimalt.
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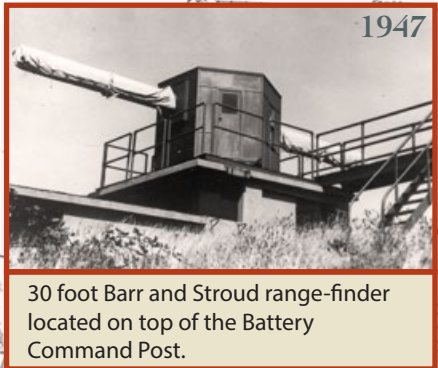


Canada

Township of
ESQUIMALT

May 2017

Take a step back in time as you explore the history and beauty of Fort Macaulay



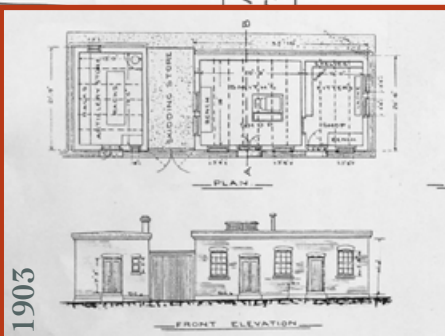
1947

30 foot Barr and Stroud range-finder located on top of the Battery Command Post.



1937

The Guard House was located by the lower entrance to the tunnel. The foundation is visible, but the building has long been removed.



1903

1903 plans of the (still standing) Artillery Stores, Skidding Stores, Smith's Shop and Fitter's Shop. The Machine Gun Ammunition Stores building is in the background.



2017



1947

Six-inch Mk VII Breech-loading gun on the right emplacement.



circa 1937

This was one of HMCS Rainbow's 6" breech-loading, quick-firing guns. They were placed at Fort Macaulay in 1924 after the ship (Canada's first navy vessel) was scrapped.



1878

Original 7-inch rifled muzzle loading gun locations.



1941

Soldiers training on the Maxim Machine Gun in 1941.

-SERVICES-
 Water: _____
 Sewer: _____
 Power & Light: _____
 Communications: _____
 WATER SERVICE: City of Victoria - 2 Hydrants
 SEWER MAIN: Municipality of Esquimalt
 POWER & LIGHT: B.C. Electric Ry. Co. Ltd.
 2500 Volt - Single Phase

PRESENT ACCOMMODATION
 OFFICERS
 SGTs. & M.O.S
 O.R.

DWG. NO. 145 375-S-1

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENCE
 OFFICE OF A.E.O., P.C.
 ESQUIMALT, B.C.

MACAULAY FORT
 ESQUIMALT, B.C.

SURVEY BY: SGT. H.G. COX, R.C.E.
 DRAWN BY: LIEUT. N.J. GUTHRIE.
 DATE: APRIL 18th, 1945.
 SCALE: 50 Feet to 1 Inch.

CHECKED BY:
 H.G.C.

H.G. Cox
 MAJOR R.C.E., A.E.O., P.C.

DWG. NO. 345-0-6-5

