



BRITANNIA BEACH STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

BRITANNIA BEACH, BC

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AND ASSOCIATES INC



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	1
2. HISTORIC CONTEXT	2
2.1 Company Towns in British Columbia	3
2.2 Britannia Beach Timeline	4
2.3 Britannia Beach History	8
2.4 Britannia Beach Evolution	11
3. STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE	18
3.1 Britannia Beach Community Church.....	19
3.2 Britannia Beach Recreation Hall.....	21
3.3 Britannia Beach Movie Theatre.....	23
3.4 Dining Room & Bunkhouse.....	25
3.5 Honeymoon Cottage.....	27
3.6 Ritz Bunkhouse	29
3.7 The Dry	31
3.8 Britannia Beach School.....	33
3.9 York Bunkhouse	35
APPENDIX A: RESEARCH SOURCES	36
APPENDIX B: REFERENCES FOR INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS.....	38





Britannia Beach aerial, 1927 [CVA 374-184]

1. INTRODUCTION

The growth of British Columbia has been dependent on its natural resources. Mining, as well as logging and the fishing industry, have played a major role in the province's economic development. Substantial investment occurred at the end of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, provoking explosive growth that resulted in the establishment of industrial operations that were among the largest in the world.

Like many early mineral discoveries, the Britannia ore body – located on the east side of Howe Sound north of Vancouver – was found by chance in 1888 by a medical doctor prospecting for gold. From this early discovery, the Britannia Mining & Smelting Company Ltd. developed the property that was to become a leader in British Columbia mineral production. In the 1920s, it was the largest copper producer in the British Empire. The Mine operated for 70 years, produced over 52 million tonnes of ore and employed approximately 60,000 people representing 50 nationalities.

Although Britannia was a company town, the community developed a life of its own in its picturesque Howe Sound setting. In 1967, a Centennial committee was formed and commissioned a history of the mine. The committee restructured in 1971 to form the Britannia Beach Historical Society. The society's goals

were to preserve the site and establish an outdoor museum. With the assistance of Anaconda and the British Columbia mining community, the British Columbia Museum of Mining opened to the public in 1975. In 1988, the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada recognized the substantial contribution of the Britannia mine to the development of Canada's economy by designating the mill a National Historic Site. The Britannia Mine Museum, formerly the British Columbia Museum of Mining, has evolved into a vibrant and significant tourism destination attraction.

The redevelopment of the remaining, unrestored portion of the townsite presents a unique opportunity to repurpose and revitalize the surviving buildings to the north of the Museum. The adaptive reuse of these buildings as part of a commercial core for a new residential community will ensure the retention of their heritage value and character. This is being achieved through the implementation of a Heritage Revitalization Agreement (HRA) between the owner, Macdonald Development, and the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District. The following Statements of Significance outline the heritage value of the existing buildings and their character-defining elements, which will be protected through the Agreement.

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT

A railway from the Atlantic to the Pacific, all the way on British soil was long the dream of a few in Canada. This dream of the few became, in time, the dream of the many, and on the confederation of the British North America provinces, in 1867, its realization was found to be a political necessity. Then the Government of the new Dominion of Canada set about building of the Canadian Pacific Railway, a work of such vast proportions that the richest empire of Europe might well have hesitated before entering upon it... With just pride in her work, Canada presents it to the Empire as her contribution to its power and unity — a new highway to Britain's possessions in the East, guarded by loyal hearts. But she will not rest with this. Her new iron girdle has given a magnetic impulse to her fields, her mines and her manufactories, and the modest colony of yesterday is to-day an energetic nation with great plans, and hopes, and aspirations. Canadian Pacific Railway. The Canadian Pacific: The New Highway to the East Across the Mountains, Prairies & Rivers of Canada. Montreal: 1887, pp.5-11.

The progressive western march of the railway created a momentum of settlement, and promoted the establishment of an economy based on the exploitation of natural resources. The province's seemingly unlimited potential was widely publicized throughout Eastern Canada, the United States of America, and Great Britain. Many restless settlers followed the railway in the 1880s, seeking their fortunes throughout the western lands. Towns sprang up along the new rail line, which allowed ready access to the agricultural land of the Prairies, large ranches in B.C.'s interior, new mineral claims, endless stands of untouched timber, and the vast fish stocks of the Pacific. The infrastructure for permanent settlements was established, and a growing number of new settlers were eager to participate in the bustling frontier economy, while conveniently pushing the original inhabitants of the land aside.

Vancouver's growth was explosive. As stated in a Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) promotional pamphlet in 1887: "The city is new indeed; only one or two of its many buildings were here twelve months ago — a forest stood here then. The men who built the town could not wait for bricks and mortar, and all of the earlier houses were built of wood; but now many solid, handsome structures of brick and stone are going up, and there is more of a come-to-stay look about it all." The economy remained unstable, and a serious economic depression set in during the early 1890s. British Columbia's languishing economy was rescued from the doldrums by a sharp rise in the international price of silver in 1895, rekindling interest in the rich mines of the Kootenays, where a number of claims had previously been staked, but not exploited, in the 1880s. The steeply rising prices triggered frantic development, unleashing a wave of settlement throughout the area. A new mining boom was on. British Columbia's metal strikes were "as famous as the Rand" strikes in South Africa, and Rossland became known as the Johannesburg of British Columbia. Vast quantities of silver, lead, copper and gold were discovered, but they could not be mined without heavy equipment. The necessity for infrastructure led to the establishment of instant urban centres, connected by new railways throughout the eastern part of the province.

The Klondike boom ended as swiftly as it started, and was followed by another recession, but the doldrums vanished in 1906 when President Teddy Roosevelt travelled to Panama to visit the "Big Ditch." By lending his personal prestige to the completion of the Panama Canal — the largest construction project in the world — Roosevelt kicked off a new era of investor confidence, initiating the last, and greatest, western boom. Financial investment began pouring into British Columbia, and some of the largest industrial plants in the world, including sawmills, canneries, and mines, were built in just a few short years to exploit the vast amount of available natural resources. The great Edwardian-era

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT

boom lasted until mid-1913. Sliding debris from the construction of the Canadian National Railway near Hell's Gate clogged the Fraser River, almost destroying the salmon run, a blow from which it never fully recovered. Agriculture and mining were also suffering, due to slumping world market conditions and local labour unrest, including the "Big Strike" held by the coal miners on Vancouver Island in 1913. Rumours of an impending war in Europe raised anxiety levels of nervous investors. The Dominion Trust Company collapsed, sending waves of panic throughout the financial community. Tension mounted as the news from overseas became ever more ominous, and the First World War broke out in 1914. Despite the turmoil and conflict that followed over the ensuing decades, British Columbia's natural resources were needed for war production, and throughout the booms and busts, resource extraction drove the local economy. Against this backdrop, the Britannia Mine developed as the largest copper producer in the British Empire, and operated for 70 years. The story of Britannia is truly a British Columbia story.

2.1 COMPANY TOWNS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

The vast industrial plants that were established in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were often located at the point of resource extraction, far away from newly-established settlements. The fish had to be canned, the trees cut and the ore mined at the source, which could be in very remote locations. Over 300 canneries dotted the coastline between Alaska and Oregon, clustered in key locations at the mouths of the Skeena, Nass, Fraser and Columbia Rivers. These canneries were seasonally inhabited, as were the logging camps that sprang up throughout the province.

The landscape of British Columbia is rugged and difficult, and there was rarely road access to these camps and settlements, which were generally reached

by water or rail. The industries experienced constant change due to growth over time, market conditions, and evolving technology. In some cases, workers lived near the industry in company towns built expressly to lodge workers and their families, who settled to take advantage of steady work and subsidized rents. Company towns were established at Fraser Mills in Coquitlam, and French-Canadian millworkers were recruited to settle in their own town, Maillardville. When Imperial Oil established a refinery on Burrard Inlet at Port Moody in 1913, a townsite was built, and later expanded, called IOCO. Settlements were established around large sawmills and pulp mills, such as Powell River, Ocean Falls, Crofton and Port Alberni. Mining activities also provided employment to many workers. On Vancouver Island, when the coal seams ran out at Wellington, the town was physically moved to the new location of Ladysmith.

When the mine was established at Britannia, its remote location dictated that the workers would have to be housed nearby. This led to the establishment of two self-contained townsites, which in addition to providing housing for the workers included the potential for them to raise families in a spectacular natural setting. These settlements provided tidy and affordable houses, as well as entertainment and recreation options, and they grew into supportive communities that lasted for many decades until the closing of the mine. Labour unrest was generally avoided by providing employee benefits with considerable company subsidies; economical housing and convenient schools were just two of these benefits.

True, it was a company town, and like other towns in this category it had its good points and its bad. Some of these points the people wish to remember, and others they want to forget. They recall, with a deep longing for a return to the good old days when they paid the company a dollar a month per room for a comfortable home and the company took care of all the repairs. They recall the dances, the baseball games, and the self-made pleasures which were the

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT

products of their isolation from the bright lights and sophistication of city life, not to say that that life in the two communities in Britannia lacked sophistication. Opening night at the theatre, for instance, was a formal occasion, and all the dances were long-dress affairs.

Bruce Ramsey, Britannia, pages 125-26.

Due to the changing nature of the resource extraction industries, and the pollution of many of the sites, most company towns in the province were ultimately abandoned. However, some have remained viable and illustrate the way that many people lived during the province's early days. The settlement at Britannia Beach has the potential to be revived as a reminder of British Columbia's industrial past.

2.2 BRITANNIA BEACH TIMELINE

1800s and prior:

First Nations Traditional Territory used primarily for hunting, fishing and gathering

1888: Discovery of copper ore at Britannia by Dr. A.A. Forbes.

1898: Oliver Furry stakes claims to copper deposits at the Britannia site

1900: Britannia Copper Syndicate formed, the first company related to the Britannia mine site.

1903: Britannia Copper Syndicate acquires the site.

1904: Howe Sound Company acquires Britannia Copper Syndicate.

1905: Mill No. 1 begins operation. First shipments of copper from the Britannia mine.

1906: George Robinson, one of the mine's founders, dies.

1907: Britannia Beach Post Office opens on January 1, 1907, with Joseph W. Lee as Postmaster.

1908: Formation of the Britannia Mining & Smelting Company Ltd., which took over the assets of the Britannia Copper Syndicate, a subsidiary to the Howe Sound Company.

1911: John Wedderburn Dunbar Moodie takes over as vice-president and general manager of the company.

1913: General Economic Recession. The price of copper plummets. Construction starts on the Pacific Great Eastern Railway (P.G.E.).

1914: Mill No. 1 ceases operation when Mill No. 2 opens. Construction begins on the Tunnel Townsite (later called Mt. Sheer Townsite). The P.G.E. halts construction at Whytecliffe. The First World War breaks out.

1915: Slide occurs at the Tunnel Camp, with 56 fatalities. The Mount Sheer townsite is established.



"We Will Rebuild Britannia At Once." [Photograph from Vancouver Daily World, October 31, 1921, page 1]

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT

- 1916:** The mill goes into full production under the control of the Imperial Munitions Board. Britannia is declared the largest copper mine in the British Empire. A school, hospital, recreation building and engineering office are built at Tunnel Townsite. A motion picture theatre is built at Britannia Beach.
- 1918:** The First World War ends. An outbreak of Spanish influenza kills an unknown number of people in Britannia Beach, between 40 and 100.
- 1919:** A two-storey recreation hall is built at Britannia Beach.
- 1920:** Copper prices drop, and production is temporarily shut down.
- 1921:** The Concentrator burns down on March 7; Bradley, Bruff & Labarthe, Metallurgical Engineers of San Francisco start the design for a replacement Concentrator. A devastating flood of Britannia Creek on Sunday, October 30 destroys much of the early Britannia Beach community. The flood results in 37 fatalities.
- 1922:** Carleton Browning appointed general manager of the mine. The company builds 12 new five-room houses, designed by architect R.W.S. Chadney and supplied “ready-cut” by the Home Builder’s Lumber Co. of Vancouver.
- 1923:** Mill No. 3 starts production.
- 1925:** Matching gymnasia are built at Townsite and Beach, 40’ by 160’. The first Copper Queen celebration is held.
- 1927:** Governor-General Lord Willingdon arrives for a vice-regal visit on April 27. A swimming pool opens up at the Beach.
- 1928:** Total staff at Britannia is up to 1,100.
- 1929:** Financial crash and the onset of the Great Depression.
- 1930:** Peak production reached with approximately 2 million metric tonnes of copper produced. The ‘Talkies’ arrive at the Britannia theatre.



Britannia Beach Gymnasium, 1925.

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT

1932:	The collapsed economy affects production, and the work force is reduced by layoffs; total staff at Britannia is down to 548. Governor-General Lord Bessborough arrives for a vice-regal visit on September 8.	1942:	Forced evacuation of Japanese-Canadians from the coast. The last of the Japanese workers and families leave on May 8. Formation of the Britannia Townsite Players Club.
1933:	The price of gold is raised, stimulating markets and restarting production.	1945:	End of the Second World War.
1935:	Rising levels of production. The York Dormitory is constructed.	1946:	Production at 400,000 tonnes, reduced production due to a shortage of labour due to World War II.
1936:	The work force has doubled. Two new bunkhouses, the Savoy and the Ritz, are completed.	1947:	A road is completed that links Squamish with Britannia.
1937:	The price of copper continues to rise.	1948:	C.P. Browning retires, and Edward Cecil Roper takes over as manager.
1939:	Workers lobby for better health and safety conditions, including the elimination of double-decker bunk beds. Outbreak of the Second World War.	1949:	Road from Britannia Beach to Squamish built.
		1950:	A branch of the Royal Bank is established at Britannia Beach.



Royal Bank, Britannia Beach Branch, 1950. Now located at Burnaby Village Museum.

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT

Early 1950s:

The Gymnasium is converted into a store. Britannia High School opens.

1956:

The price of copper plummets. P.G.E. railway completed from North Vancouver to Squamish. Coastal steamer service stops.

1958:

As a result of ongoing decline in copper prices, the mine is closed. Britannia Mining & Smelting Co. is wound up. The Seaview Highway from Horseshoe Bay to Squamish is opened on August 7 with Premier Bennett's motorcade. TV services arrives at the same time; "Oh well, at least we can watch TV."

1959:

Mine operations resume under the direct control of the Howe Sound Company.

1963:

Britannia Mine acquired by Anaconda; during Anaconda's tenure, the mine was shut down.

1967:

The Britannia Beach Centennial Committee is formed.

1971:

The Britannia Beach Centennial Committee becomes the Britannia Beach Historical Society.

1974:

The mine is permanently closed. Britannia Mine is acquired by Arco-Atlantic Richfield.

1975:

The British Columbia Museum of Mining is opened to the public.

1977:

The Province will not let residential development proceed until the pollution issue is settled.



Premier W.A.C. Bennett's limousine under escort; opening of the Seaview Highway on August 7, 1958. [BCA I-68814]

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT

- 1979:** Copper Beach Estates acquires the Britannia site on the condition that they are removed from any environmental responsibility for the clean up of the site. Forty acres of land on the beach flat is transferred to the British Columbia Museum of Mining.
- 1988:** Mill No. 3 designated as a National Historic Site of Canada.
- 1991:** Second Britannia Creek flood; the General Store and the Gas Station are destroyed.
- 2001:** The environmental issues are identified and a \$30 million remediation fund is established.
- 2003:** Macdonald Development purchases 10,000 acres from the Province, of which 9,500 acres are returned to the Crown for environmental remediation.
- 2004:** Sale of single-family lots, with no families displaced Epcor water purification plant up and running
- 2006:** Completion of all services including water and sewer treatment facilities
- 2007:** Exterior rehabilitation of Mill No. 3 is completed.
- 2010:** The British Columbia Museum of Mining is relaunched as the Britannia Mine Museum
- 2015:** Salmon return to Britannia Creek for the first time in approximately a century.
- 2016-17:** The Province decommissions the dams in the upper reaches of the creek.
- 2017:** Initial submission to the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District for the redevelopment of Britannia village.

2.3 BRITANNIA BEACH HISTORY



Britannia Mines, B.C., 1908. [Philip Timms, photographer. UBC Langmann Collection 1-0360679]

In June 1792, Captain George Vancouver was the first European to venture into Howe Sound. The expedition is documented in his diary, which mentions an encounter with First Nations people whom he described as skilled traders. Vancouver noted that they possessed copper ornaments and showed a preference for any metal objects that they could obtain by barter.

The name Britannia was given to the range of mountains on the eastern shore of Howe Sound in 1859 by a surveyor, George Henry Richards, Captain of the S.S. Plumper. He named the range in honour of the old warship of the British Royal Navy that had participated in several famous sea battles, including the Battle of Trafalgar.

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT



*Location of Britannia Beach, 1923 Fire insurance Map.
[UBC RSBC-ARC-1272]*

The Britannia area was already known by the natives as a source for red ochre that they used as a pigment in their paint and dyes. Their long-term presence in this area has been documented by petroglyphs that were discovered just north of Furry Creek on the east shoreline of Howe Sound. Red ochre is an oxidation product of iron in the sulphide ores. It is also a visible indicator of some of the valuable minerals sought after by prospectors. A sample of mineralized rock and legends of the red ochre brought Doctor A.A. Forbes to Britannia in 1888. A medical doctor who lived on the west side of Howe Sound, he was employed by the federal government to care for the local native people who had survived a devastating smallpox epidemic. Apart from being a medical doctor, he had nurtured keen interests in chemistry and prospecting which he pursued in his spare time. Forbes discovered mineralized rock, and worked his prospect off and on for ten years, but eventually became distracted with other more accessible prospects.

In 1898, Oliver Furry, a trapper, was encouraged by some furriers to stake five mineral claims in the area of Britannia. Furry's five claims would become known as the Britannia Group. One of them was the famous Jane. Control over the claims passed in quick succession to a firm of Victoria fur buyers and then to a group of Vancouver businessmen who formed the Britannia Syndicate. Local interest did not take hold until 1901, when George Robinson, a mining engineer from Butte, Montana, visited the property. Upon inspection, he concluded that it was well situated for a mining operation. The ore bodies were only five kilometres from tidewater on the east side of Howe Sound and 50 kilometres by water from the fast-growing city of Vancouver that could provide the necessary services and work force. There were magnificent stands of timber in the area for construction and an ample water supply for power and other uses.

The Britannia group of claims had been staked by various interests. The Britannia Syndicate, formed using American capital, acquired the claims. The Howe Sound Company was established to serve as a holding company for the operation, and later became known as the Britannia Mining & Smelting Company. In 1903, an infusion of capital enabled Robinson to establish the operations. The original concentrator, Mill Number 1 (with a processing capacity of 200 tons of ore per day) was constructed at Britannia Beach. In 1905, the first ore was produced and shipped to the Crofton smelter on Vancouver Island owned by Howe Sound Company.

To support the mining activity at Britannia, two townsites were constructed to house employees and administer the mining operations. Built to bring ore to the Beach milling site, a network of service tunnels, raises, drifts and ore chutes exist in the ground around the present concentrator building. 210 kilometres of tunnel exist at Britannia; vertically there are 15,000 feet of shafts: ten shafts each with an extent of 1,500 feet.

The demographics of Britannia Beach were typical of an early west coast resource town. 60,000 people from over 50 different nations worked here over the course of the mine's 70 years of operation. The majority of the early residents at Britannia Beach were British and

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT

European; it was these origins that gave the dominant motif to the development of the mining town and its hierarchy. Managers and other mine personnel lived in homes on the bluff above the beach. Engineers, assayers, and other professionals and their families lived on the beach in six-room houses with picket fences.

Separate bunkhouses were provided for Japanese and white crews, while Chinese workers, mostly employed as waiters and cooks in the company kitchens, as hotel staff or by mine management, were lodged in boarding houses or lived in quarters attached to the hotel; the number of Chinese on site did not number significantly more than about 15 persons between 1911 and 1915. Japanese workers had come into the camp early in the mine's history as surface labourers, packers and trackmen. They were not permitted, under the legislation of the day, to enter the mine. The sorting of waste rock from ore was a labour-intensive, multistage process that was done almost exclusively by Japanese labourers, who were paid less than their white counterparts for performing the same work.

The first three decades of the twentieth century were years of dramatic growth and change in the North American copper mining industry. Mine after mine opened to meet the demands of a rapidly expanding market; the years leading up to the First World War were the most prosperous and optimistic in the history of the industry. As a result, the industry was characterized by the rise of large copper producers such as Britannia, and the adaptation of mass production techniques designed to lower operating expenses, while ores were exploited with lower copper content than had previously been considered profitable.

In 1912, J.W.D. Moodie was hired to run the mine. Moodie was given full authority and approximately \$5 million capital to revamp every aspect of the operation. By this time, the mining operation had been expanded to over 600 employees; but, the high-grade ore had been mined out. There was still an abundance of low-grade deposits so the key to expansion was improvement in the transportation system and the construction of a new, more efficient gravity mill. A gravity mill was constructed to take advantage of a newly patented flotation process to treat the low-grade ore. Production increased tenfold, from 200

tons per day to 2,000. On March 7, 1921, Number 2 Mill burned to the ground. Then, just seven months later, during a period of heavy rain, Britannia Creek flooded its banks and swept through the community, which was reduced to a mass of wreckage and tangled debris. Thirty-seven people were killed and many more were injured.

For the next 25 years, the Britannia operation was under the direction of C.P. Browning, and many of the conflicts that existed in the community were resolved as a result of his enlightened style of management, which made Britannia Beach a model company town. The company store was reorganized as a cooperative. Community clubs were organized at the Beach and Townsite. Popular events such as Britannia Beach's May 24 crowning of the Copper Queen and Townsite's July 1 Mining Games became annual traditions. These special events were enthusiastically organized and looked forward to with great anticipation by the whole community.

Following the fire and the flood, a new mill had to be constructed and the Beach community rebuilt; Number 3 Mill (which still stands today) was constructed out of steel on a concrete foundation. Britannia mines reached peak production by 1930. More than a thousand people were on the payroll and the value of the stock jumped from \$3 to \$8 per share. Britannia attracted worldwide attention and became recognized as the British Empire's largest copper producer.

By the late 1950s, new open-pit mines in Merritt and on Vancouver Island had eclipsed the Britannia mine. When the price of copper fell, the mine closed and went into liquidation. Metal markets strengthened in 1958 and the mine reopened on a reduced scale. All operations were consolidated at the Beach, and the townsite of Mount Sheer was abandoned. Those buildings that could be salvaged were relocated to Britannia Beach. A legacy of the Post-war boom was the completion of the railway and the highway, connecting Squamish and Britannia Beach to North Vancouver. At the same time, it was announced that a highway would be built simultaneously alongside the rail to create an eventual link with Garibaldi Provincial Park. In August 1956, the last spike of the P.G.E., made from copper mined at Britannia, was driven at North Vancouver.

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT

2.4 BRITANNIA BEACH EVOLUTION

In 1963, the Anaconda Mining Company purchased the property for \$5 million. Anaconda's intention was to use Britannia as a base for its exploration program throughout western Canada. The end finally came in 1974. Anaconda closed the mine due to rapidly rising costs, increased taxation and growing competition in the marketplace.

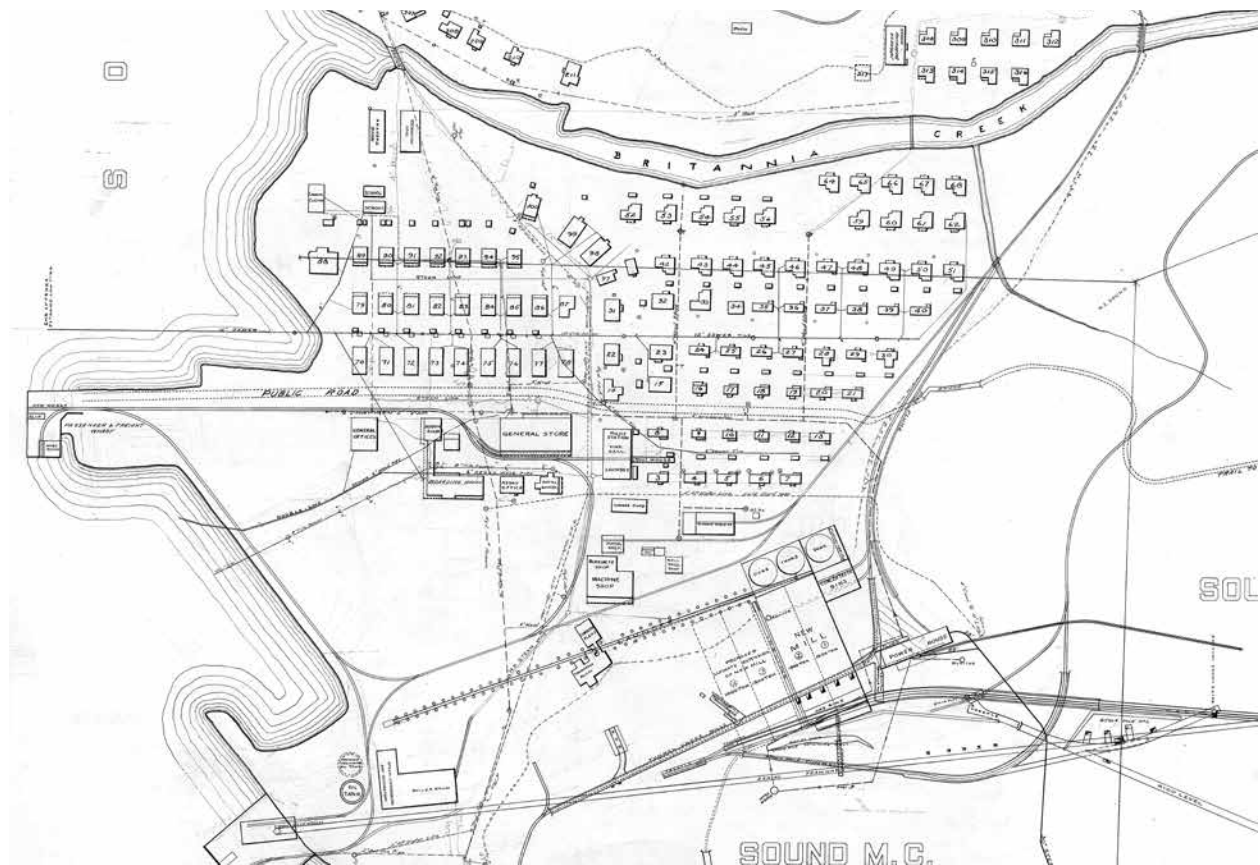
This was not, however, the end of the Beach community. Although a company town, it had developed a life of its own in its picturesque Howe Sound setting. In 1979, these efforts finally paid off when Anaconda sold the mine property to Copper Beach Estates, a real estate company. One of terms of the transaction was that forty acres of land would be held in trust for the Britannia Beach Historical Society.

Copper prices and company policies are notably unromantic.

Bruce Ramsey, *Britannia*, page 105.

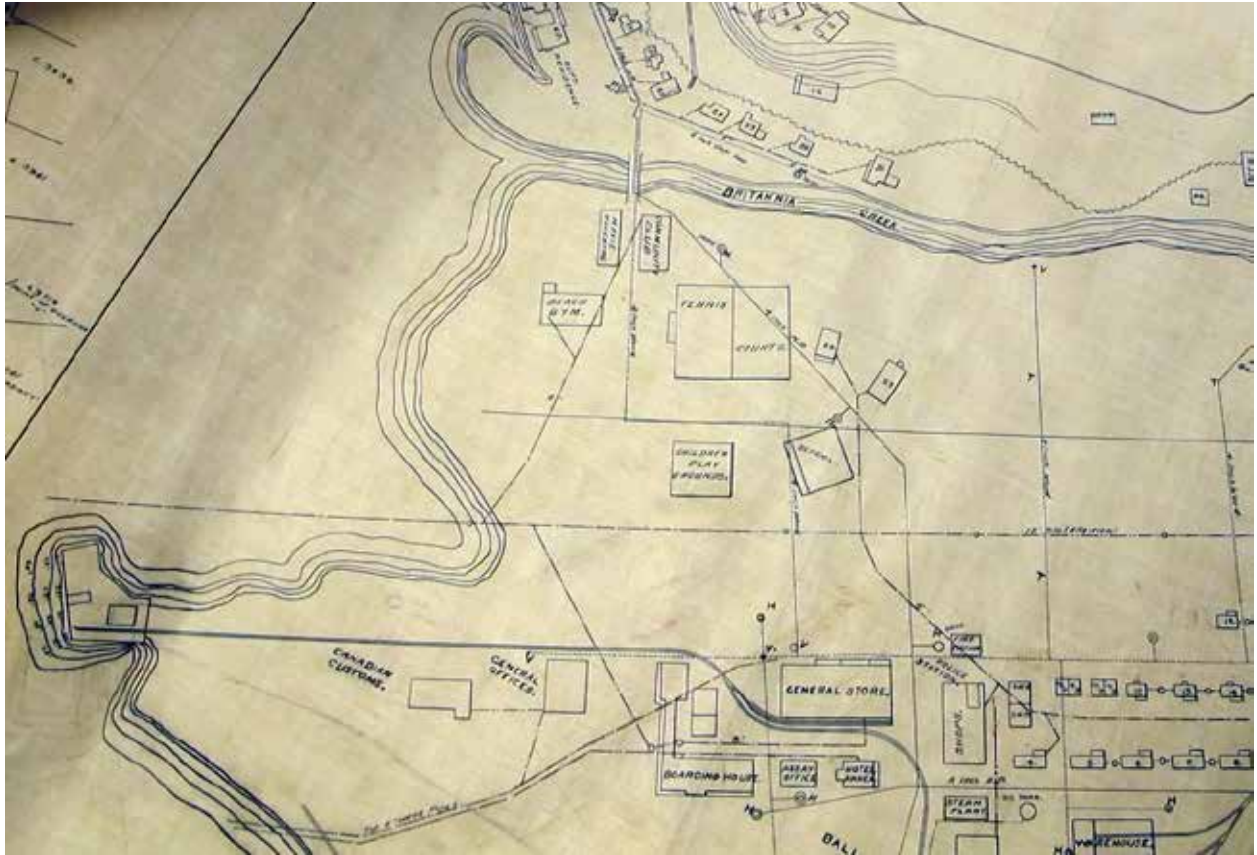
Britannia Beach today is a landmark on the coastal highway that connects Vancouver and the communities of Howe Sound, but what is seen from the highway does not reflect the scale and influence of the large mine that once operated here. Between 1925 and 1930, Britannia was the largest producing copper mine in the British Empire.

The Britannia mine site offers a history of a mine during the shift from traditional to modern mining onward to the late twentieth century. What remains of the company town is an iconic remnant of the early Britannia mining community.



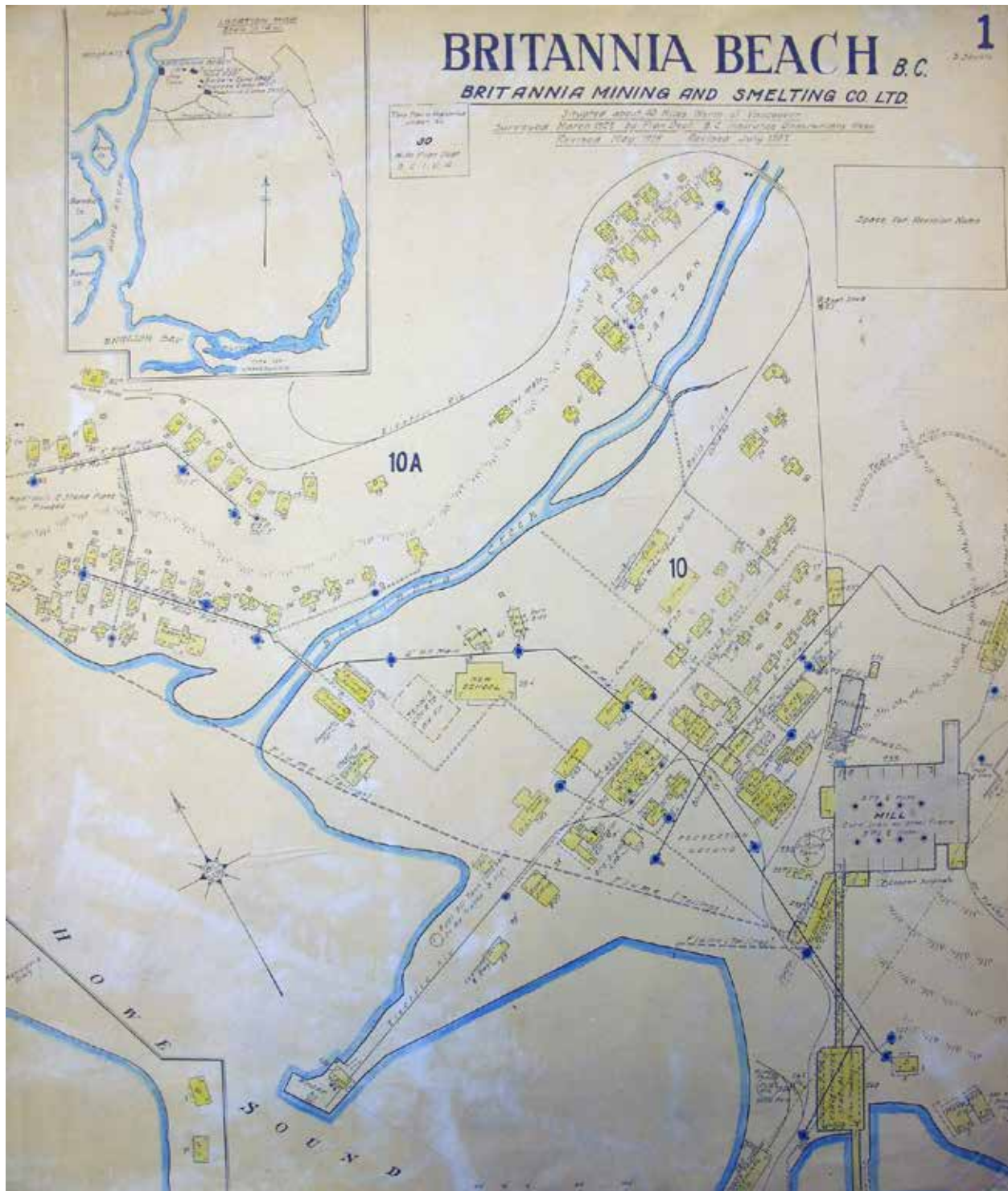
Plan of Britannia Beach, Howe Sound B.C. 1916, Revised. [Britannia Mine Museum]

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT



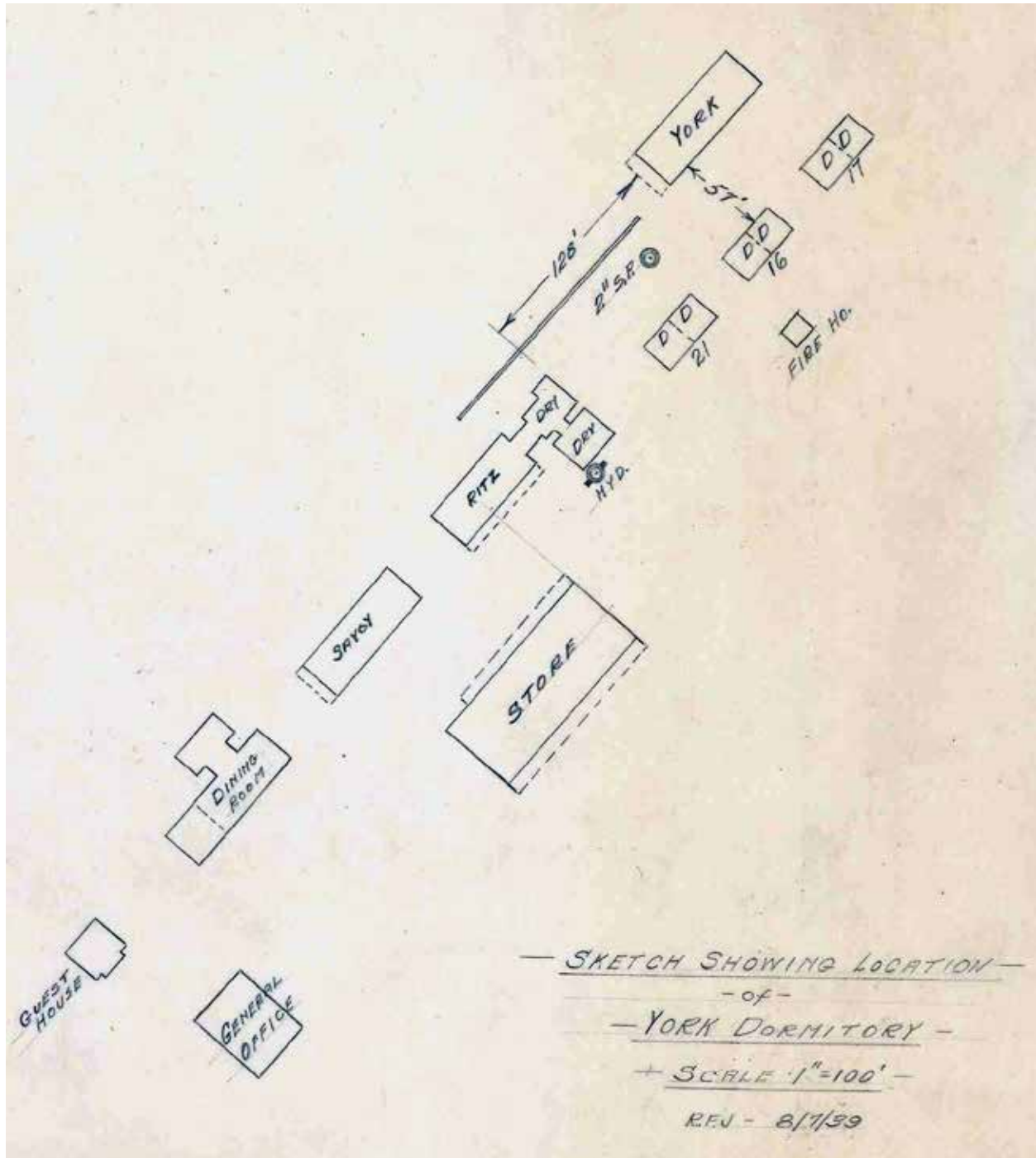
Plan of Britannia Beach, Howe Sound B.C., Showing Domestic Water Supply and Sewerage System, 1926. [Britannia Mine Museum]

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT



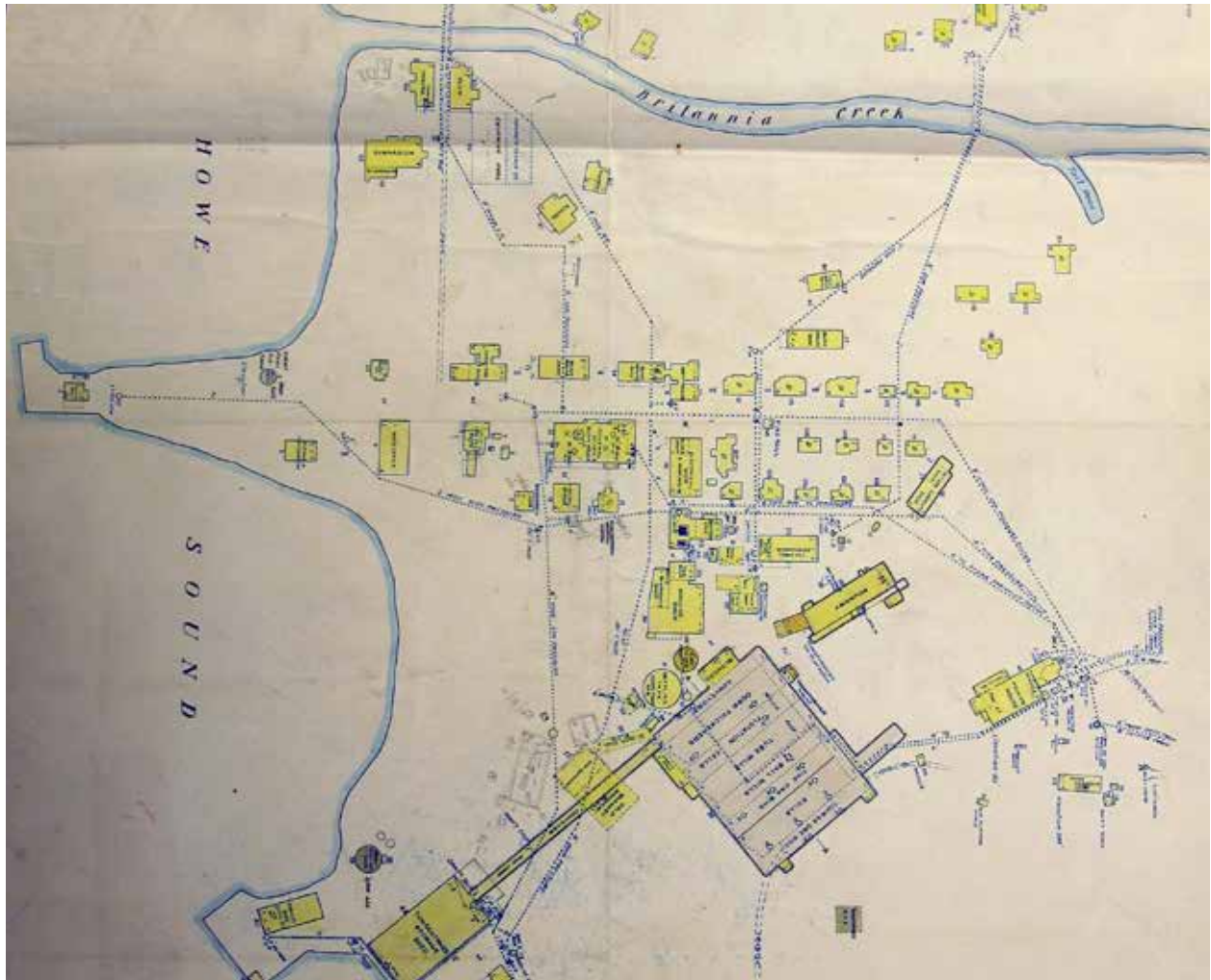
Plan of Britannia Beach, March 1923; Revised May 1928 and July 1937 [UBC RSBC-ARC-1272]

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT



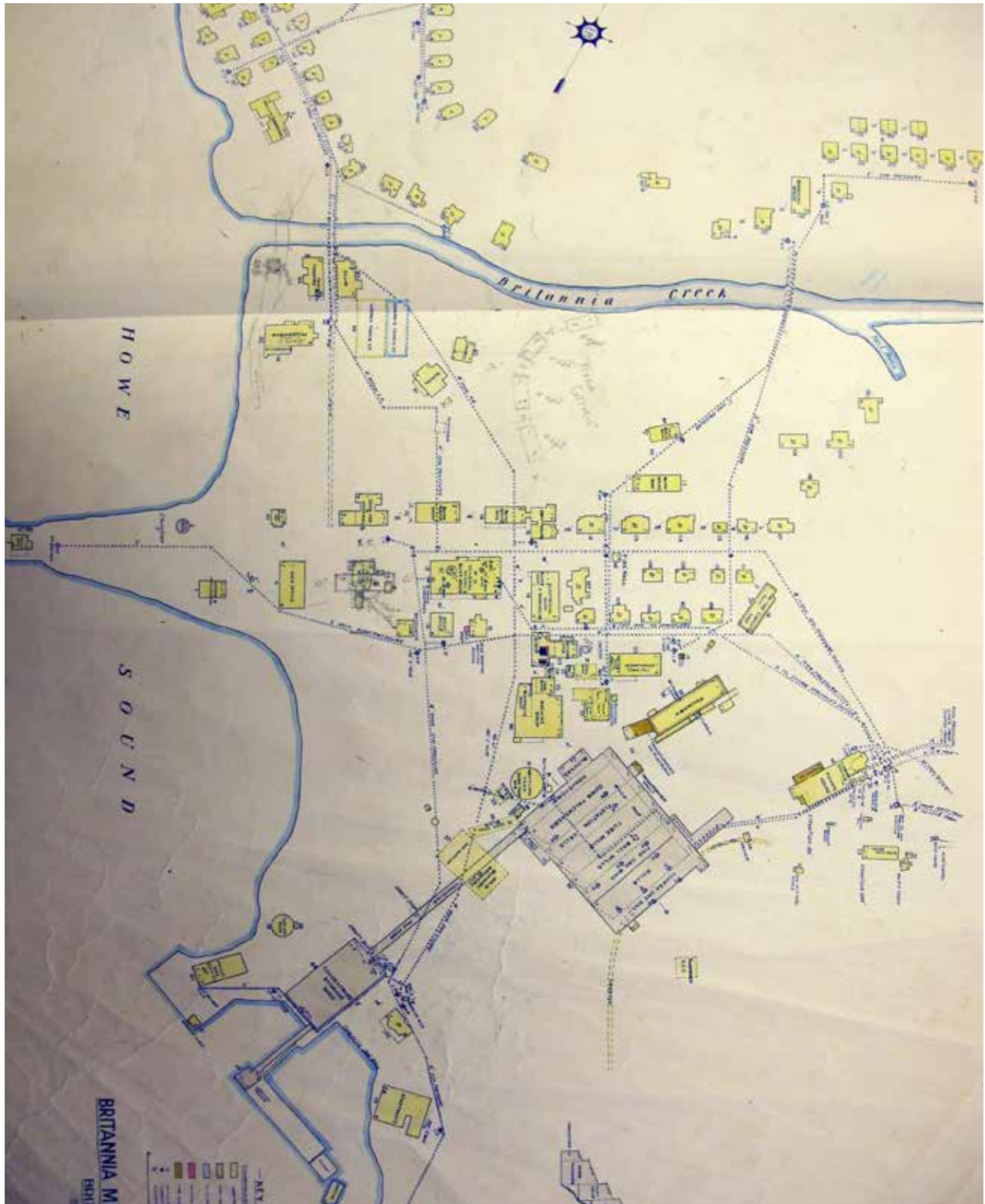
'Sketch Map of York Dormitory,' 1939. [Britannia Mine Museum]

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT



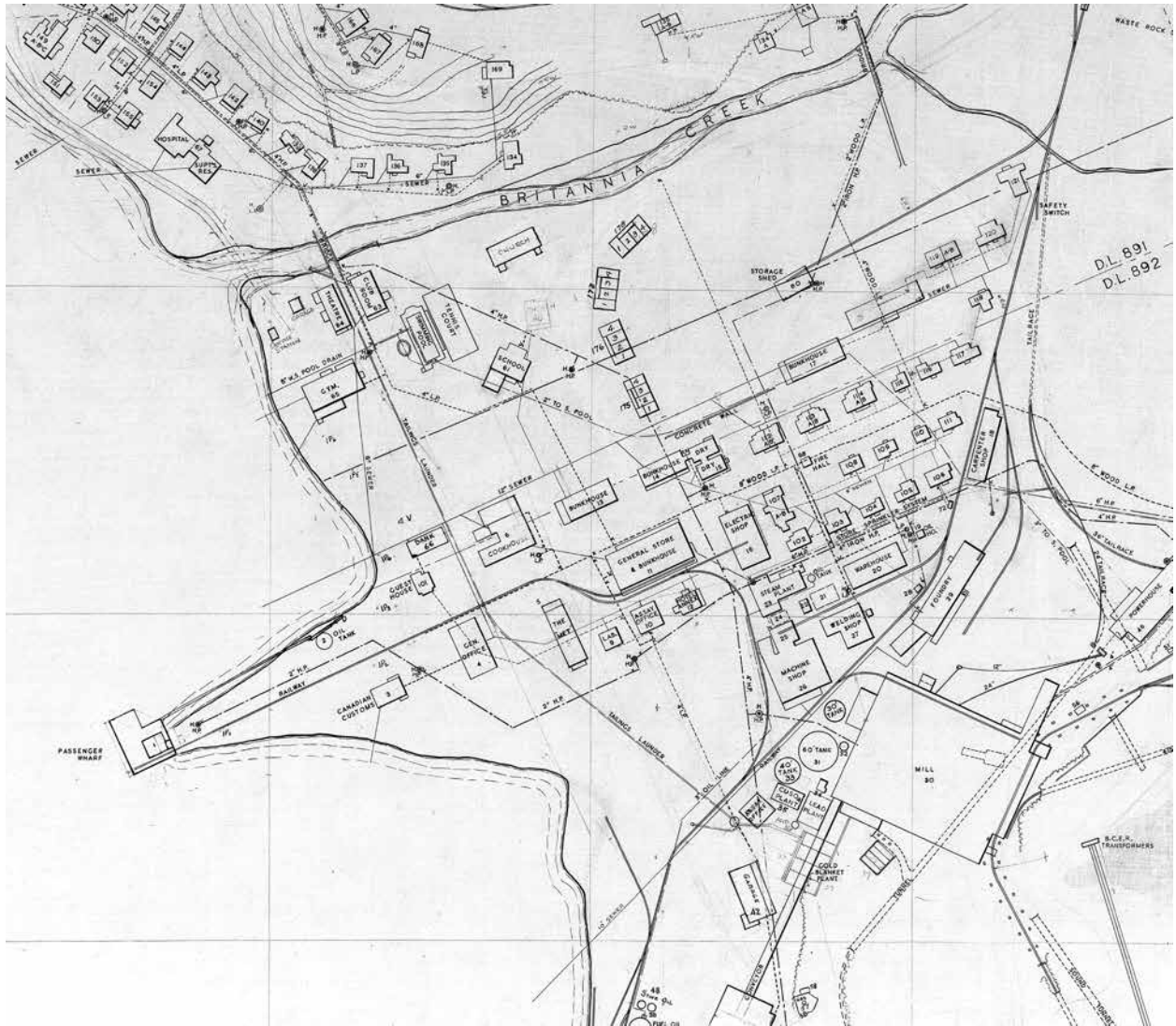
Plan of Britannia Beach, August 1945 [UBC RSBC-ARC-1272]

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT



Plan of Britannia Beach, August 1945, Revised circa 1950. [UBC RSBC-ARC-1272]

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT



Plan of Britannia Beach 1946, revised 1954. [Britannia Mine Museum]

3. STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE



Britannia Beach Community Church, 2018



Britannia Beach Community Church, 1966. [BMM 6221]

3. STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

3.1 BRITANNIA BEACH COMMUNITY CHURCH

Historic Name: Britannia Beach Community Church
Designer: Company (assumed)
Date of Construction: 1952-53

DESCRIPTION

The Britannia Beach Community Church is a side-gabled, symmetrical building, which features prominent entry porches with open scrollwork at each end, round-arched windows and a small spire located midway along the gable ridge. It is located to the north of the former residential area.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Britannia Beach Community Church is of spiritual and aesthetic significance as a representation of the self-sufficient and cooperative nature of the Britannia community. Dedicated in April 1953, the Church was constructed by volunteer labour, and exemplifies the cooperation that existed between the mine and the community. It was built at a time when the mining industry was prospering, and along with several other community buildings and additional housing constructed during this period, demonstrates a return to a peacetime economy.

The Britannia Beach Community Church was designed to house two different denominations, and reflects the diversity of the townsite's population. It replaced the original church in the community, which housed the Protestant Church on the main floor and the Catholic Church above. The extant church continued the tradition of a single church building being used by the local Christian community. The symmetrical plan, with Catholic and Protestant Churches back-to-back on either side of a dividing wall, represented the coexistence of the two churches under one roof. The design of the church, originally copied from a 'mail order' catalogue, expresses a simple vernacular style, with a simplified spire and round-arched window openings. The building has continued in use as the community post office and administrative centre.

CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

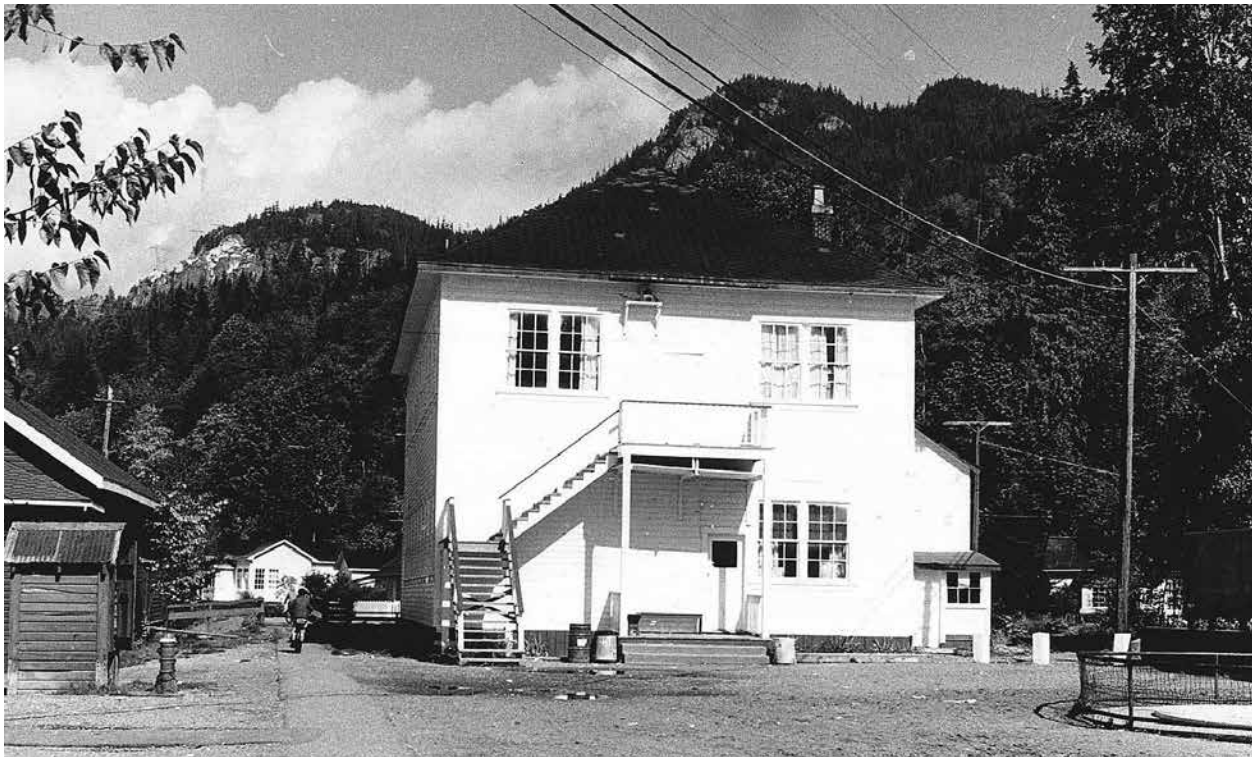
The elements that define the heritage character of the Britannia Beach Community Church include its:

- location to the north side of the site;
- ecclesiastical form, scale and massing designed to accommodate two churches, as exemplified by its: symmetrical rectangular one-storey plan with full basement; side-gabled roof; and gabled entry porches with open scrollwork at each end;
- wood frame construction including vertical groove-faced cedar shingle siding, wide lapped wooden foundation skirting and dimensional window and door trim;
- vernacular ecclesiastical features including a central attic vent designed as a spire;
- round-arched wooden-sash windows, divided into three vertical lites, with round-arched hopper transoms with coloured glass;
- original wood panelled and glazed entry doors; and
- vaulted interior volumes, with exposed trusses with scroll-cut and turned elements.

3. STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE



Britannia Beach Recreation Hall, 2018



Britannia Beach Recreation Hall, 1966 [BMM 6320]

3. STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

3.2 BRITANNIA BEACH RECREATION HALL

Historic Name: Britannia Beach Recreation Hall
Other Historic Names: Community Club
Designer: Company (assumed)
Date of Construction: 1919

DESCRIPTION

The Britannia Beach Recreation Hall is a two-storey rectangular structure with a bellcast hipped roof and regularly-spaced multi-paned second storey windows, located to the north of the former residential area.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Britannia Beach Recreation Hall is significant for its cultural and aesthetic values, and as the second oldest surviving building in the former residential area of the townsit, one of only two buildings that survived the 1921 flood. Constructed in 1919, the Hall, along with several other remaining buildings in this precinct, reflects the orientation of the original street grid pattern, which was centred on the main street leading inland from the Customs Wharf, perpendicular to the shoreline.

The Britannia Beach Recreation Hall has historical value in its representation of the recreational amenities provided by the Britannia Mine to its workers, and the self-sufficiency of this company town. Still used as a community building, the Hall was culturally significant as the home of a workers club, originally providing a small library, reading room, barber shop, pool and billiard tables, and other amenities to residents of Britannia Beach, as well as providing a large hall space for communal gatherings. Its prominent scale gave the building landmark status among the lower buildings in the former residential area. The Britannia Beach Recreation Hall is additionally significant for its simple vernacular architecture, characteristic of the utilitarian nature of buildings in the company town.

CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

The elements that define the heritage character of the Britannia Beach Recreation Hall include its:

- location to the north side of the site;
- continuing community use;
- institutional form, scale and massing, as demonstrated by its two-storey height, rectangular plan and bellcast hipped roof.
- wood frame construction, including balloon framing, wooden drop siding with cornerboards and dimensional window and door trim;
- vernacular design features including closed tongue-and-groove soffits,
- original 6-over-6 double-hung wooden sash windows, in paired assembly on the front and rear façades; and
- interior wooden finishes such as wooden floors, vertical tongue-and-groove wainscoting with horizontal tongue-and-groove cladding above, and tongue-and-groove ceilings.

3. STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE



Britannia Beach Movie Theatre, 2018



Britannia Mining and Smelting Co. town and waterfront, Britannia Beach, August 17, 1917. [W.J. Moore / Canadian Photo Co. Vancouver B.C. CVA PAN N34]

3. STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

3.3 BRITANNIA BEACH MOVIE THEATRE

Historic Name: Britannia Beach Movie Theatre
Other Historic Names: General Store
Designer: Company (assumed)
Date of Construction: 1916

DESCRIPTION

The Britannia Beach Movie Theatre is a one-storey rectangular structure with a front-gabled roof and a hipped open front verandah, located to the north of the former residential area.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Britannia Beach Movie Theatre is significant for its cultural and aesthetic values, and as the oldest surviving building in the former residential area of the townsite, one of only two buildings that survived the 1921 flood. Constructed in 1916, the Movie Theatre, along with several other remaining buildings in this precinct, reflects the orientation of the original street grid pattern, which was centred on the main street leading inland from the Customs Wharf, perpendicular to the shoreline.

Purpose-built as a movie theatre in 1916, it is unusual for its wartime date of construction, and indicates the importance of the mine's production to the war effort and the need to boost morale in the remote community. As well as showing movies, it was also used informally as a playhouse until 1958, when the opening of the highway connected the town to other communities. It then became the home of union meetings, reflecting the changing social nature of the town. The Britannia Beach Movie Theatre is additionally significant for its simple vernacular architecture, characteristic of the utilitarian nature of buildings in the company town. Its interior vaulted ceiling exemplifies its original use as a community venue.

CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

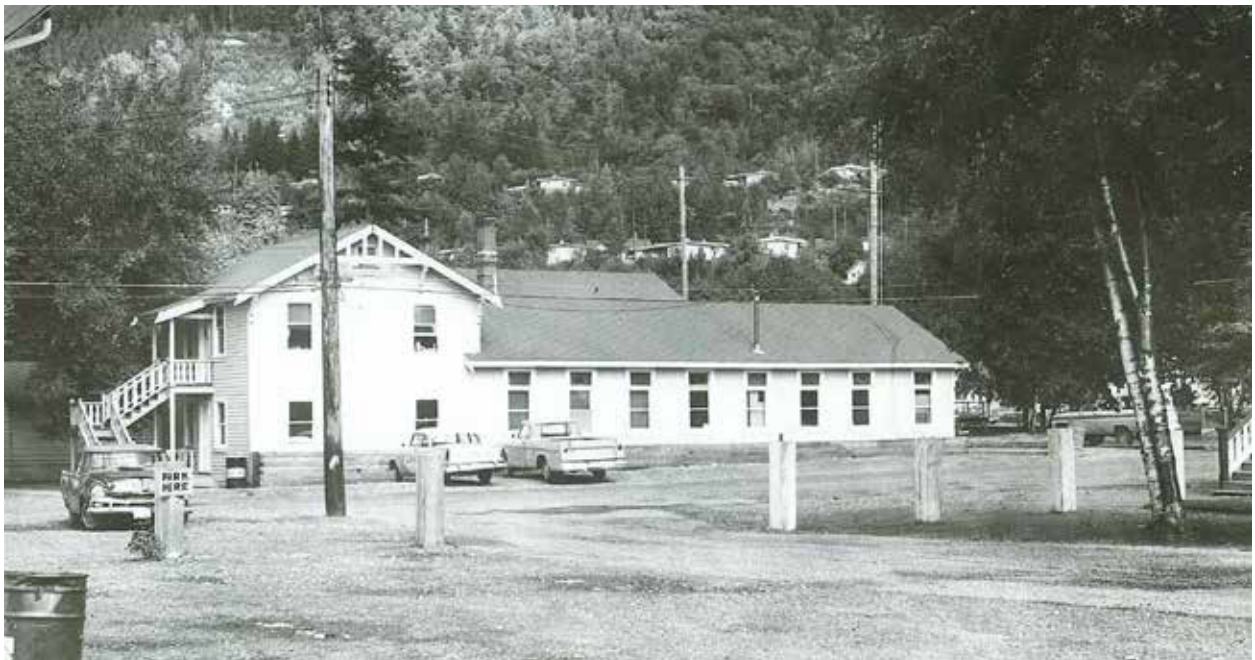
The elements that define the heritage character of the Britannia Beach Movie Theatre include its:

- location to the north side of the site;
- vernacular form, scale and massing, as demonstrated by its one-storey height, rectangular plan, front-gabled roof with two monitor vents, and full open front verandah;
- wood frame construction, including wooden drop siding with cornerboards, and dimensional window and door trim;
- vernacular design features including open soffits, and remnant whalebone vergeboard at rear;
- interior vaulted ceiling; and
- interior finishes such as wooden floors and tongue-and-groove cladding.

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT



Dining Room & Bunkhouse, 2018



Dining Room & Bunkhouse, 1966 [BMM 6222]

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT

3.4 DINING ROOM & BUNKHOUSE

Historic Name: Dining Room & Bunkhouse
Other Historic Names: Cook House & Mess Hall; Research Lab (1966)
Designer: Company (assumed)
Date of Construction: Dining Room circa 1936;
Bunkhouse circa 1946

DESCRIPTION

The Dining Room & Bunkhouse is a set of conjoined buildings, located adjacent to the present entrance to the old townsite. The Dining Room is a one-storey rectangular structure with a side gabled roof. The Bunkhouse is a two-storey front-gabled rectangular structure. The two structures are joined by a series of lower additions with flat and gabled roofs.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Dining Room & Bunkhouse, along with several other remaining buildings in this precinct, reflects the orientation of the original street grid pattern, which was centred on the main street leading inland from the Customs Wharf, perpendicular to the shoreline. Built circa 1936 at a time when the work force was doubled and large dormitories were being built to house single workers, the Dining Room was significant as a centre of social activity. The dormitories were built without cooking facilities, and the workers were fed in this communal mess hall. The building's use as the cook house has associative significance to the multicultural nature of the Britannia workforce; originally the cookhouse employed Chinese cooks and wait staff who boarded in separate quarters and were not employed in the mining operations.

A two-storey bunkhouse was later built to the north, and the two buildings were joined by a series of additions. The complex was later used as a geochemical laboratory, representing the adaptive re-use of buildings in the townsite, a record of the economy of means and self-sufficiency associated with the life of company towns. It also illustrates the changing nature of food supply and service at Britannia after the end to its physical isolation with the arrival of the highway, and the adaptability of the simple wood frame buildings originally constructed on the townsite. The Dining Room & Bunkhouse are

additionally significant for their simple vernacular architecture, as demonstrated by the late persistence of elements of the Craftsman style.

CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

The elements that define the heritage character of the Dining Room & Bunkhouse include its:

- location adjacent to the present entrance to the old townsite.

Dining Room

- vernacular form, scale and massing as demonstrated by its one-storey height, rectangular plan and side-gabled roof;
- wood frame construction, including wooden drop siding with cornerboards, and dimensional window and door trim;
- vernacular Craftsman features including open soffits, triangular eave brackets and openwork gable screen at side with diamond point detailing;
- original two-part wooden sash windows with transoms.

Bunkhouse

- vernacular form, scale and massing as demonstrated by its two-storey height, rectangular plan, front-gabled roof and second-floor front porch;
- wood frame construction, including wooden drop siding with cornerboards, and dimensional window and door trim;
- vernacular Craftsman features including open soffits, triangular eave brackets and openwork gable screen at front with diamond point detailing;
- original 6-over-6 double-hung wooden sash windows.

3. STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE



Honeymoon Cottages, 2018



Honeymoon Cottages, 1966 [BMM 6211]

3. STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

3.5 HONEYMOON COTTAGE

Historic Name: Honeymoon Cottage
Other Historic Names: Plaza Cottage / Pyrite
Plaza Apartment
Designer: Company (assumed)
Date of Construction: 1950-51

DESCRIPTION

The Honeymoon Cottage is one of a series of identical symmetrical gable-roofed quadruplex structures with central inset entries.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Honeymoon Cottages, constructed in 1950-1951, are significant as a demonstration of the continuing development and viability of the Britannia Mine after the end of the Second World War. They were built at a time when the mining industry was prospering, and along with several other community buildings and additional housing constructed during this period, demonstrate a return to a peacetime economy. This is one of four original quadruplexes that is being retained as part of the redevelopment at Britannia. Known as the Plaza Cottages, and later as the Pyrite Plaza Apartments, the Cottages are representative of the later development of Britannia Beach, reflecting changing responses to worker's accommodation and providing housing for those starting married life.

The form, style and siting of the buildings recall the type of suburban development that was under way elsewhere in North America, in response to the pent-up postwar demand for housing, and the ballooning population that was the result of the baby boom. There was a desire for housing that included modest yet well designed 'modern' homes, backyards, lawns and quiet streets. The design of these quadruplexes retained the multiple dwelling concept of a bunkhouse and was cost effective, while the low horizontal massing and individual entries represented a new suburban aesthetic.

CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

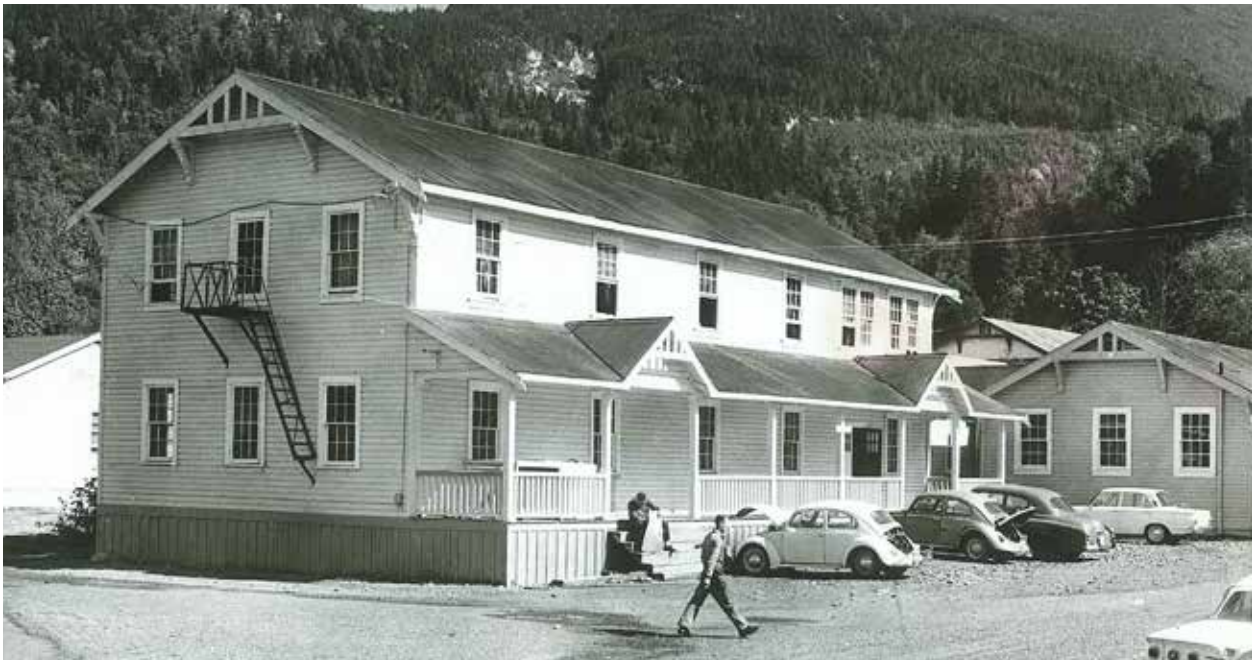
The elements that define the heritage character of the Honeymoon Cottage include its:

- Residential form, scale and massing as demonstrated by a low symmetrical one storey plus basement massing, side gabled roof, quadruplex plan and central inset entry;
- Wood frame construction including vertical groove-faced cedar shingle siding, plywood soffits and dimensional window and door trim;
- Vernacular design features including scroll-cut balusters and vestigial whalebone vergeboard returns;
- Original 1-over-1 double-hung wooden-sash windows in single and double assembly; and
- Original wood panelled and glazed entry doors.

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT



Ritz Bunkhouse,, 2018



Ritz Bunkhouse,, 1966 [BMM 6231]

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT

3.6 RITZ BUNKHOUSE

Historic Name: Ritz Bunkhouse
Designer: Company (assumed)
Date of Construction: 1936

DESCRIPTION

The Ritz Bunkhouse is a two-storey dormitory structure with a side-gabled roof and a shed roofed-full open front verandah with two gabled projections. It is located parallel to the present entrance to the old townsite. Adjacent to the Ritz is the smaller gable-roofed Dry that was originally connected by a short hallway.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Ritz Bunkhouse – along with the Dry, the York and the Dining Room – was built in 1936 to accommodate a workforce that had doubled in size, and provided improved accommodation for unmarried workers. Following the worst years of the Great Depression, a provincial increase in the price of gold stimulated the mining industry. The Ritz Bunkhouse is a reminder of the conditions faced by the resource industry workforce, and the unrest regarding living conditions that occurred in the 1930s. The workers began to object to their overcrowded accommodations, which had been neglected for years due to economic austerities.

The Ritz Bunkhouse illustrates the provision of improved accommodation for unmarried members of the work force at Britannia, and of the hierarchy of housing types that existed at Britannia and other company towns in British Columbia. Housing was assigned by professional, marital or cultural status; the Ritz Bunkhouse is an example of ‘bachelor’s quarters’ that were centrally located for ease of access to the jobsite. The adjacent Dry, which was originally connected to the Ritz, provided the opportunity to clean up after work. Providing some of the better housing on the site, the Ritz and the York also housed visiting company officials, and were nicknamed after famous hotels. The Ritz Bunkhouse is additionally significant for its simple vernacular architecture, as demonstrated by the late persistence of elements of the Craftsman style.

CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

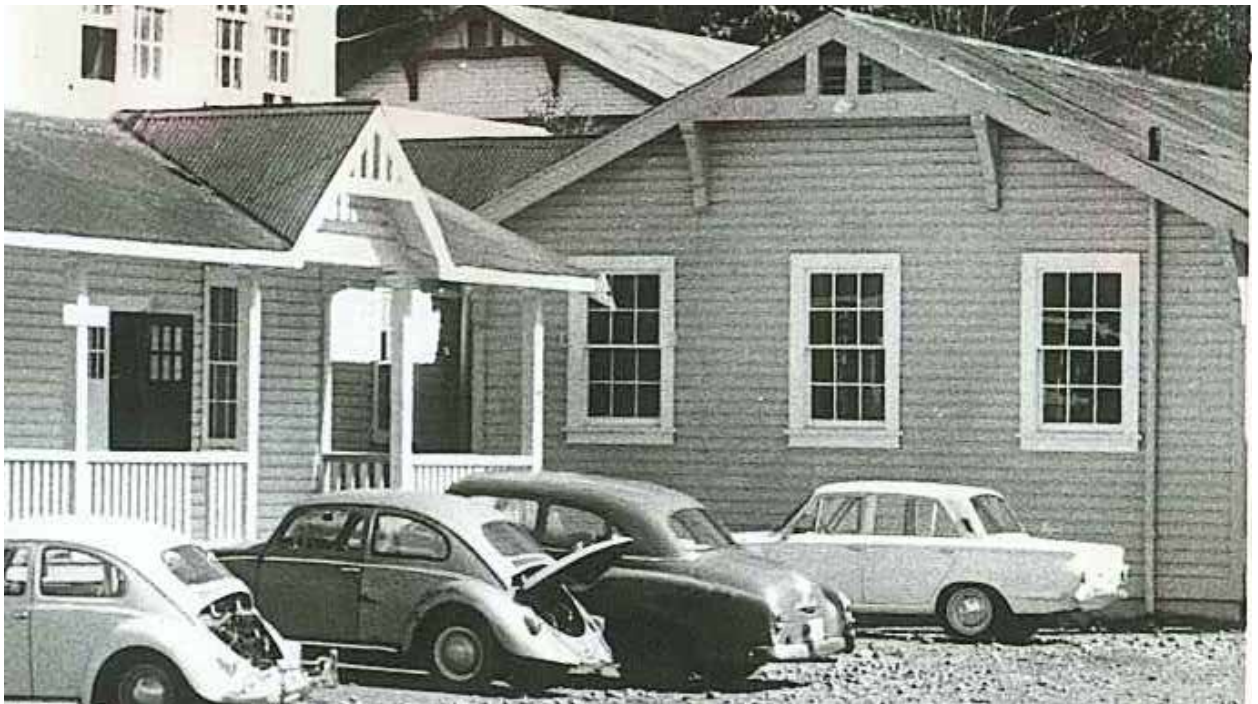
The elements that define the heritage character of the Ritz Bunkhouse include its:

- location parallel to the present entrance to the old townsite;
- residential form, scale and massing as demonstrated by its two-storey height, rectangular plan, side-gabled roof and full open shed-roofed verandah with two gabled projections;
- wood frame construction, including wooden drop siding with cornerboards, and dimensional window and door trim;
- vernacular Craftsman features including scroll-cut verandah capitals, square balusters, open soffits, triangular eave brackets and openwork gable screens at front and sides with diamond point detailing;
- original 6-over-6 double-hung wooden sash windows in single and double assembly;
- original wood panelled and glazed entry doors; and
- interior layout with an open stairwell and upper floor double-loaded central hallway.

3. STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE



The Dry, 2018



The Dry, 1966 [BMM 6231]

3. STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

3.7 THE DRY

Historic Name: The Dry
Other Historic Names: Dry House
Designer: Company (assumed)
Date of Construction: 1936-1939

DESCRIPTION

The Dry consist of two parallel gable-roofed one-storey structures, joined by a short hallway. It is located parallel to the present entrance to the old townsite, and adjacent to the Ritz, to which the rear section was originally connected by a short hallway.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Dry, along with the adjacent bunkhouses and Dining Room, was built in 1936 to accommodate a workforce that had doubled in size. Following the worst years of the Great Depression, a provincial increase in the price of gold stimulated the mining industry. Used by mine workers in the concentrator and adjacent industrial buildings, as well as underground miners and muckers, The Dry housed showers and changing facilities, and was originally connected to the Ritz, which enabled workers to clean up after their shift and before entering the bunkhouse. Very soon after it was constructed it was expanded with a parallel structure, joined to it by a short hallway. The provision of these facilities reflected the rapid growth of the workforce at the time, and the need to improve accommodations for the unmarried male workers. The Dry is additionally significant for its simple vernacular architecture, as demonstrated by the late persistence of elements of the Craftsman style.

CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

The elements that define the heritage character of The Dry include its:

- location adjacent to the Ritz Bunkhouse, parallel to the present entrance to the old townsite and facing the work site;
- vernacular form, scale and massing as demonstrated by its parallel and joined gabled one-storey structures;
- wood frame construction, including wooden drop siding with cornerboards, and dimensional window and door trim;
- vernacular Craftsman features including open soffits, triangular eave brackets and openwork gable screens in the gable ends with diamond point detailing;
- original 6-over-6 double-hung wooden sash windows; and
- corrugated metal roofing.

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT



Britannia Beach School, 2018



Aerial view of Britannia Mining & Smelting Co. Ltd., 1927. [Pacific Airways Ltd. CVA 374-184]

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT

3.8 BRITANNIA BEACH SCHOOL

Historic Name: Britannia Beach School
Designer: Company (assumed)
Date of Construction: 1927; addition circa 1950

DESCRIPTION

The Britannia Beach School is a former educational building built in two stages. The original section is a rectangular plan structure with banked windows on two sides, and a central projecting front-gabled entry. A hip-roofed extension was later added to the rear façade. The school is set diagonally to the original street grid.

HERITAGE VALUE

The Britannia Beach School is significant as a representation of the self-sufficiency of the company town and the community life of its resident families. The original school at Britannia Beach was destroyed in the devastating 1921 flood. The Britannia Mining & Smelting Company constructed a new school that reflected standardized educational planning and principles as mandated by provincial authorities. Typical of these requirements, windows were banked on one side of each classroom to allow for natural light and ventilation.

The provision of a school site indicates the desire of the company to attract a stable workforce by allowing for family life through educational and recreational opportunities. Due to the remote nature of the site, the development of a self-contained community required that provisions be made for families. This, plus the provision of subsidized housing, attracted married workers who were willing to make a long-term commitment to the site. The school was later expanded in the postwar era, with an addition that has since been demolished.

CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

The elements that define the heritage character of the Britannia Beach School include its:

- irregular siting, offset from the original street grid;
- institutional form, scale and massing as demonstrated by its one-storey height, banked 9-over-9 windows and hipped roofs;
- wood frame construction, including wooden drop siding with cornerboards, and dimensional window and door trim;
- vernacular design features including closed tongue-and-groove soffits; and
- original interior features such as wooden floors.

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT



York Bunkhouse, 2018



York Bunkhouse,, 1970's [BMM 6227]

2. HISTORIC CONTEXT

3.9 YORK BUNKHOUSE

Historic Name: York Bunkhouse

Other Historic Names: York Dormitory

Designer: Company (assumed)

Date of Construction: 1935

DESCRIPTION

The York Bunkhouse is a two-storey former dormitory structure with a front-gabled roof and a projecting double-height full open verandah with an exterior staircase.

HERITAGE VALUE

The York Bunkhouse – along with the Dry, the Ritz and the Dining Room – was built in the mid-1930s to accommodate a workforce that had doubled in size, and provide improved accommodation for unmarried workers. Following the worst years of the Great Depression, a provincial increase in the price of gold stimulated the mining industry. The York Bunkhouse is a reminder of the conditions faced by the resource industry workforce, and the unrest regarding living conditions that occurred in the 1930s. The workers began to object to their overcrowded accommodations, which had been neglected for years due to economic austerities.

The York Bunkhouse illustrates the provision of improved accommodation for unmarried members of the work force at Britannia, and of the hierarchy of housing types that existed at Britannia and other company towns in British Columbia. Housing was assigned by professional, marital or cultural status; the York Bunkhouse is an example of ‘bachelor’s quarters’ that were centrally located for ease of access to the jobsite. Providing some of the better housing on the site, the Ritz and the York also housed visiting company officials, and were nicknamed after famous hotels. The York Bunkhouse is additionally significant for its simple vernacular architecture, as demonstrated by the late persistence of elements of the Craftsman style.

CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

The elements that define the heritage character of the York Bunkhouse include its:

- residential form, scale and massing as demonstrated by its two-storey height, rectangular plan, front-gabled roof and projecting double-height full open verandah with an exterior staircase;
- wood frame construction, including wooden drop siding with cornerboards, and dimensional window and door trim;
- vernacular Craftsman features including scroll-cut verandah capitals and corbels, square balusters, open soffits with exposed rafter ends, triangular eave brackets and openwork gable screens at front and rear with diamond point detailing;
- original 1-over-1 double-hung wooden sash windows in single assembly;
- original wood panelled and glazed entry doors; and
- interior layout with upper floor double-loaded central hallway.

APPENDIX A: RESEARCH SOURCES

PUBLISHED WORKS:

- Backus, Harriet Fish. *Tomboy Bride: A Woman's Personal Account of Life in Mining Camps of the West*. Boulder, Colorado: Pruett Publishing Company, 1969.
- Bancroft, Clifford G. *Mining Communities in British Columbia : A Social Infrastructure Analysis*. Victoria: British Columbia Department of Mines and Petroleum Resources and University of Victoria, 1975.
- Britannia Beach Mining & Smelting Co. 1927. *Bird's-Eye View of Britannia Mill and Mine*. Second Empire Mining & Metallurgical Congress, September 15, 1927.
- Davies, David LI. B. C. *Rail Guide No. 10: The Britannia Copper Mine Railway*.
- Vancouver: Canadian Railroad Historical Association, Pacific Coast Division, 1977.
- Carlson, Linda. *Company Towns of the Pacific Northwest*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2003.
- Franklin, J.M.; Sangster, D.M.; Lydon, J.W. *Volcanic-Associated Massive Sulphide Deposits; Economic Geology 75th Anniversary Volume, 1981*; pps. 485-627.
- Mullan, M., Executive Director, British Columbia Museum of Mining, Britannia Beach, B.C. *Britannia - The Story of a British Columbia Mine - From Mining Resource To Heritage Resource*. 1992.
- Ramsey, Bruce. *Britannia: The Story of a Mine*. 3rd ed. Victoria: Trafford Publishing, 2014.
- Town, Florida Ann. *Before the Road Came*. Port Coquitlam: Bookus Press, 2004.
- Town, Florida Ann. *The Lively Ghost of Howe Sound*. Port Coquitlam: Bookus Press, 2000.
- U.S. Department of the Interior. *Guidelines for Identifying, Evaluating and Registering Historic Mining Sites*. National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division, National Register of Historic Places, 1997.

UNPUBLISHED WORKS, REPORTS AND THESES:

- Denise Cook Design and Birmingham & Wood Architects & Planners. *Statements of Significance for the Britannia Mine Site and Associated Structures*. British Columbia Museum of Mining National Historic Site, 2006.
- Howe Sound Company. *Britannia Beach Mining & Smelting Company, Howe Sound Company, Britannia Division fonds, 1913-1972*. Held at University of British Columbia Rare Books and Special Collections.
- Hovis, Logan A. *Technological Change and Mining Labour: Copper Mining and Milling Operations at the Britannia Mines, British Columbia. 1898-1937*. Vancouver: University of British Columbia, 1986.
- *Oral History Project Collection*. British Columbia Museum of Mining and the University of British Columbia, 1986.
- Parks Canada. *Britannia Mines Concentrator National Historic Site of Canada: Commemorative Integrity Statement*, 2003.
- *Report of the Minister of Mines*. Sessional Papers 1900-1950. Held at Vancouver Public Library.
- *Contract Record*, references from 1921-22.

MAPS AND PLANS:

- British Columbia Insurance Underwriters Association, Fire Insurance Plans, UBC Special Collections.
- Historical Aerial Photographs held at the Geographic Information Centre, UBC.

BRITANNINA MINE MUSEUM:

- Collected research files and archival material.
- Collection of archival images.
- Plan of Britannia Beach, Howe Sound B.C. 1916 [Revised]
- Plan of Britannia Beach, Howe Sound B.C., Showing Domestic Water Supply and Sewerage System, 1926
- 'Sketch Map of York Dormitory,' 1939
- Plan of Britannia Beach 1946, revised 1954

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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

- RSBC-ARC-1272: Plan of Britannia Beach, March 1923 [Revised].
- RSBC-ARC-1272: Plan of Britannia Beach, March 1923 [Revised May 1928 and July 1937].
- RSBC-ARC-1272: Plan of Britannia Beach Adjoining Minaty Bay, 1937-38 [Revised 1946].
- RSBC-ARC-1272: Plan of Britannia Beach, August 1945.
- RSBC-ARC-1272: Plan of Britannia Beach, August 1945 [Revised to circa 1950; some later notations].

BRITISH COLUMBIA ARCHIVES:

- Fonds PR-1229: Britannia Beach Mining & Smelting Company fonds, 1900-1973: The fonds consist of the records of the Britannia Beach Mining & Smelting Company and related companies (Britannia Copper Syndicate, Britannia Smelting Company, Chelan Copper Mining Company, El Potosi Mining and Howe Sound Exploration and Howe Sound Company). The fonds includes annual reports, correspondence, accounting records, exploration records, engineering plan, leases, contracts, agreements, photographs, and maps.
- Add.MSS 1221-010.
- Collection of archival images.

CITY OF VANCOUVER ARCHIVES:

- Collection of archival images.

VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY:

- Collection of archival images.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA:

- Collection of archival images.

APPENDIX B: REFERENCES FOR INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS

1. BRITANNIA BEACH COMMUNITY CHURCH

Historic Name: Britannia Beach Community Church

Designer: Company (assumed)

Date of Construction: 1952-53

ARCHIVAL REFERENCES:

- BMM: Collected research files and archival material.
- BMM: Plan of Britannia Beach 1946 [revised 1954]: 'Church' – no building number.

PUBLISHED REFERENCES:

- Ramsey, Britannia, page 135: "However it was not until June 1952 that a \$16,500 church was erected at the Beach by volunteer labor. The church was officially opened on April 19, 1953 and it must be one of the most unique in Canada, for both Protestant and Roman Catholic services are held under the same roof, although at opposite ends of the building, and separated by a wall."

2. BRITANNIA BEACH RECREATION HALL

Historic Name: Britannia Beach Recreation Hall

Other Historic Names: Community Club

Designer: Company (assumed)

Date of Construction: 1919

ARCHIVAL REFERENCES:

- BMM: Collected research files and archival material.
- BMM: Plan of Britannia Beach, 1916 [revised]: 'Recreation Hall'
- BMM: Plan of Britannia Beach, 1926 'Community Club'
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, March 1923 [Revised May 1928 and July 1937]: "Building 29: Billiards / Barber" (shows verandah; note that

Gym is called "Community Hall")

- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, August 1945: 'Club' – Bldg. 63.
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, August 1945 [Revised to circa 1950]: 'Club' – Bldg. 63.
- BMM: Plan of Britannia Beach 1946 [revised 1954]: 'Club Room' – Bldg. 63.

PUBLISHED REFERENCES:

- Ramsey, Britannia, pages 51-52: "In 1919, the old concentrator and vanner building was torn down and on its site a two storey recreation hall was built at the Beach. The Report of the Minister of the Mines states it was 72-feet long by 30-feet wide and contained a billiard hall 'furnished with an English billiard table three pool tables.'"
- Ramsey, Britannia, page 58: "(1921) The only buildings left undamaged on the residential side were the customs house, moving picture hall, amusement hall and a few Japanese homes."

3. BRITANNIA BEACH MOVIE THEATRE

Historic Name: Britannia Beach Movie Theatre

Other Historic Names: General Store

Designer: Company (assumed)

Date of Construction: 1916

ARCHIVAL REFERENCES:

- BMM: Collected research files and archival material.
- BMM: Plan of Britannia Beach, 1916 [revised] 'Movie Theatre'
- BMM: Plan of Britannia Beach, 1926 'Movie Theatre'
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, March 1923 [Revised May 1928 and July 1937]: "Building 30: Motion Pictures"
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, August 1945: 'Theatre' – Bldg. 64.
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, August 1945 [Revised to circa 1950]: 'Theatre' – Bldg. 64.
- BMM: Plan of Britannia Beach 1946 [revised 1954]: 'Theatre' – Bldg. 64.

APPENDIX B

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

- Ramsey, Britannia, page 50: “(1916) Down at the Beach, a general office building and motion picture theatre was built.”
- Ramsey, Britannia, page 58: “(1921) ‘Had the moving picture show been running, which usually drew large crowds,’ the Province noted, ‘it is possible that many lives would have been saved.’”
- Ramsey, Britannia, page 58: “(1921) The only buildings left undamaged on the residential side were the customs house, moving picture hall, amusement hall and a few Japanese homes.”
- Ramsey, Britannia, page 130-31: “ In the same issue (of the Britco News), May 1930, it was announced under Townsite Topics, ‘The Talkies will be in operation at Britannia during the first week in June. With the talkie attachments, a new projector has been ordered for the Beach theatre. It is hoped that everyone will cooperate to make this new community venture a success. The least we can do is make sure that we are not late.’”
- Ramsey, Britannia, page 139: One of the big attractions at the bi-weekly movie was the colour provided by George Mitchell. He never failed to put on a show of his own. It began when he stood in front of the hall and bellowed ‘last call’ in such good voice that he could be heard right through the town. Then he entered the hall and kept order till the movie began. If the children up front were restless his ‘Sit down ye little presbyterians’ in stentorian tones soon settled them down. When it was time for the show to start he invariably walked down the aisle and shouted ‘Let’er gooooooooo’ – though the projectionist in their isolated box couldn’t hear him and just hoped their watches were synchronized. If the film broke – as frequently happened – Geordie was right there in the aisle announcing to all and sundry that ‘There is something wrong with the technicality.’”

4. DINING ROOM & BUNKHOUSE

Historic Name: Dining Room & Bunkhouse

Other Historic Names: Cook House & Mess Hall; Research Lab (1966)

Designer: Company (assumed)

Date of Construction: Dining Room circa 1936;

Bunkhouse circa 1946

ARCHIVAL REFERENCES:

- BMM: Collected research files and archival material.
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, March 1923 [Revised May 1928 and July 1937]: “Building 203: Dining Room”
- BMM: ‘Sketch Map of York Dormitory,’ 1939: ‘Dining Room’
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, August 1945: ‘Cook House & Mess Hall – Bldg. 6.
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, August 1945 [Revised to circa 1950]: ‘Cook House & Mess Hall – Bldg. 6.
- BMM: Plan of Britannia Beach 1946 [revised 1954]: ‘Cookhouse’ plus attached bunkhouse – Bldg. 6.

5. HONEYMOON COTTAGE

Historic Name: Honeymoon Cottage

Other Historic Names: Plaza Cottage / Pyrite Plaza Apartment

Designer: Company (assumed)

Date of Construction: 1950-51

ARCHIVAL REFERENCES:

- BMM: Collected research files and archival material.
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, August 1945 [Revised to circa 1950]: ‘Plaza Cottages’ (pencilled in)
- BMM: Plan of Britannia Beach 1946 [revised 1954]: Quadruplexes – Bldgs. 175, 176, 177.

6. RITZ BUNKHOUSE

Historic Name: Ritz Bunkhouse

Other Historic Names:

Designer: Company (assumed)

Date of Construction: 1936

ARCHIVAL REFERENCES:

- BMM: Collected research files and archival material.
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, March 1923 [Revised May 1928 and July 1937]: "Building 207: Ritz"
- BMM: 'Sketch Map of York Dormitory,' 1939: 'Ritz'
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, August 1945: 'Bunk House "Ritz"' – Bldg. 14.
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, August 1945 [Revised to circa 1950]: 'Bunk House "Ritz"' – Bldg. 14.
- BMM: Plan of Britannia Beach 1946 [revised 1954]: 'Bunkhouse' – Bldg. 14.

7. THE DRY

Historic Name: The Dry

Other Historic Names: Dry House

Designer: Company (assumed)

Date of Construction: 1936

ARCHIVAL REFERENCES:

- BMM: Collected research files and archival material.
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, March 1923 [Revised May 1928 and July 1937]: "Building 207: The Dry"
- BMM: 'Sketch Map of York Dormitory,' 1939: 'Dry'
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, August 1945: 'Dry House' – Bldg. 15.
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, August 1945 [Revised to circa 1950]: 'Dry House' – Bldg. 15.
- BMM: Plan of Britannia Beach 1946 [revised 1954]: 'Dry' – Bldg. 15.

8. BRITANNIA BEACH SCHOOL

Historic Name: Britannia Beach School

Designer: Company (assumed)

Date of Construction: 1927; addition to south circa 1950

ARCHIVAL REFERENCES:

- BCA: Add.MSS 1221-010; indicates new two-room school opened in 1927. An addition was built to the south in 1928.
- BMM: Collected research files and archival material.
- BMM: Plan of Britannia Beach, 1916 [revised]: two schools indicated in different location.
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, March 1923 [Revised May 1928 and July 1937]: "New School"
- BMM: Plan of Britannia Beach, 1926: School.
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, August 1945: 'School' – Bldg. 61.
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, August 1945 [Revised to circa 1950]: 'School' – Bldg. 61.
- BMM: Plan of Britannia Beach 1946 [revised 1954]: 'School' – Bldg. 61.
- Archival images.

9. YORK BUNKHOUSE

Historic Name: York Bunkhouse

Other Historic Names: York Dormitory

Designer: Company (assumed)

Date of Construction: 1935

ARCHIVAL REFERENCES:

- BMM: Collected research files and archival material.
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, March 1923 [Revised May 1928 and July 1937]: "York"
- BMM: 'Sketch Map of York Dormitory,' 1939: 'York Dormitory'
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, August 1945: 'Bunk House "York"' – Bldg. 17.
- UBC: Plan of Britannia Beach, August 1945 [Revised to circa 1950]: 'Bunk House "York"' – Bldg. 17.
- BMM: Plan of Britannia Beach 1946 [revised 1954]: 'Bunkhouse' – Bldg. 17.