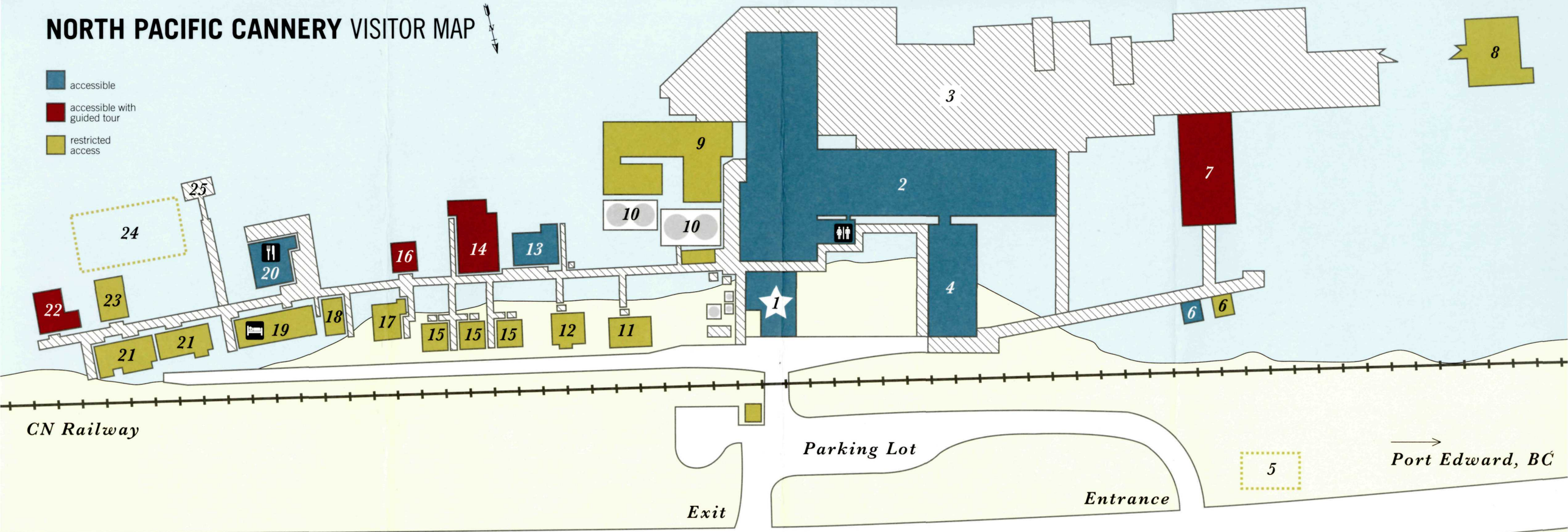
NORTH PACIFIC CANNERY VISITOR MAP



1. VISITOR CENTRE & CAN LOFT (1918)
The main floor of this building once provided storage for fish offal, and now houses the NPC visitor centre and gift shop. The upper level holds the can reform line that still runs smoothly after 75 years of can production!

2. MAIN CANNING BUILDING (1889, 1900)
This is where all of the canning processes, as well as packaging and labeling, took place throughout NPC's 80 years of operation. Discover how new technologies transformed the industry and the workforce with our manual and mechanized canning lines.

3. WORKING DOCK (ca.1890)
This 40,000 square foot structure linked the main canning building with the machine shop and fuel dock. It was a site of much activity during the canning season, providing ample space for net maintenance, boat repair, storage, and loading and unloading goods, people, and cargo.

4. SALT SHED (ca. 1900)
This structure originally provided extra storage for tinned salmon, and later, salt. Today it houses an interactive model train display and an exhibit about Port Essington.

5. CHINESE BUNKHOUSE (ca. 1900 - 1968)
This building housed single Chinese men who were hired by a Chinese Boss to make cans and process the salmon pack each season. It was demolished after the final season of salmon processing at NPC.

6. FIRST NATIONS HOUSES (ca. 1900-1970)
These two small houses are replicas of the original village, comprised of 70-120 structures on either side of the boardwalk, stretching out as far as the pilings at the end of the shoreline. Each housed anywhere from 6-12 First Nations family members, who comprised nearly 75% of the NPC workforce during peak years.

7. MACHINE SHOP / FIRST NATIONS NET LOFT (1923)
This building was built in Port Essington and moved to NPC in 1937 to house a machine shop on the lower level, and a net loft for First Nations fishermen on the upper level.

8. FUEL DOCK
This building stored fuel away from the rest of NPC, keeping families and buildings safe.

9. REDUCTION PLANT (1955)
Here fish offal was pressure-cooked to separate fish oil from solids: oil was used in products such as paint and cosmetics, and solids were sold for fertilizers and animal feed.

10. HOLDING TANKS (1956)
Part of the reduction plant complex, two of these large tanks stored reduced fish oil, while the other two held water necessary for the reduction process.

11. MANAGER'S HOUSE (1916, 1924)
The manager was said to be crucial to the success of each season, and one of the perks of this high-pressure position was having the largest single-family residence on the site.

12. ASSISTANT MANAGER'S HOUSE (1918)
This was built two years later in the same style as the manager's house for the assistant manager and his family. It eventually prompted the manager to modify his own house with a side addition and dormer window in order to emphasize his position on the site.

13. COMPANY OFFICE (1956)
This building served as both the financial and communications centre for the site, and employed men of European descent.

14. COMPANY STORE (1939)
The company store was the only source of provisions, clothing, tableware, hardware, and other goods for cannery workers. It was also an additional source of revenue for the company.

15. EUROPEAN HOUSING (ca. 1950)
These buildings accommodated high-status European employees with families, such as the lineman and the storekeeper.

16. NET BOSS' HOUSE (1960)
This is where the net boss lived. Though he did not have quite the same status as management, the fishermen regarded him as the most important man on the site.

17. WATCHMAN'S HOUSE (1940)
This is where the winter watchman lived. He was responsible for maintaining safety and order on the site, and was one of the few employees who lived and worked at the cannery year-round.

18. RAILMAN'S HOUSE (1916)
This building was once a siding office for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. It was later acquired by NPC and moved to its current location to house workers with families.

19. EUROPEAN BUNKHOUSE (1952)
This building served as living quarters for single European men who worked in the company office. Today it functions as our Bunkhouse Hostel, providing guest accommodation.

20. MESS HOUSE (1949)
The mess house provided meals to cannery employees for over 50 years. Today it is the NPC Cannery Café, offering a homemade lunch and fresh baked goods.

21. TRIPLEX UNITS (1964-65)
These suites were built to provide self-contained housing for workers during the last years of cannery operations.

22. JAPANESE BUNKHOUSE (1930)
This building housed Japanese-Canadian fishermen, boat builders, and carpenters.

23. SHIKITANI HOUSE (ca 1938)
This house belonged to Tak Shikitani, who was a spokesman for the Japanese workers at the cannery.

24. JAPANESE NET LOFT (1923-1990)
This building served as a space for net storage and mending for the Japanese fishermen. Long after cannery operations ceased, the building collapsed and was washed away with the tide.

25. PUBLIC WHARF (2008)
This dock allows for public access to NPC by water. It's also a great spot to take photographs.