

22nd Amdt

17/04/2009

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**PRIDDY'S HARD
Laboratory Cottages**

GV

II

Alternatively known as: Buildings 216, 217, 404 and 806, PRIDDY'S HARD

Workers' cottages, by Colonel Lewis, Commanding Royal Engineer of the Portsmouth District. Stores 1847, altered 1877 and reroofed 1892. Brick in Flemish bond; slate roofs on timber trusses, replacing original flat roof.

A long narrow hipped range in one storey, with one small hipped wing to the rear. The entrance front has two groups of three 12-pane sashes to rubbed brick voussoir heads and stone sills, between which are two framed plank doors to a stone step; to the right the fenestration has been modified, and there are 3 small square lights to a concrete lintel, a 4-panelled door, with 3-pane overlight, and a door flanked by modified sashes. The rear retains good 12-pane sashes to the right of the projecting wing with a single sash, but windows have been modified to the left.

INTERIOR: Originally there were three cottages, each with a small single-room rear wing; the fireplaces and stacks were removed at the 1877 alterations.

HISTORY: This range of small cottages was designed with flat roofs, at the same time the Laboratory buildings (qv). Externally the two left-hand units remain unchanged, both back and front, and the group is of special historic interest as the only such accommodation to survive at any of the ordnance depots. Its later conversion (1877) into a tube and rocket store and subsequent enlargement (1892) directly relates to the unique historical importance of this site, and the manner in which it expanded in order to process new types of naval ordnance in the 19th century ordnance. The magazines and related structures at Priddy's Hard date from the late 18th century. The site's expansion from the mid 19th century was closely related to the development of land and sea artillery and the navy's transition from the age of sail, powder and solid shot to the Dreadnought class of the early 1900s. Priddy's Hard retains the best-preserved range of structures that relate to this remarkable history of continual enlargement and adaptation, one that encompasses that of Britain's dominance as a sea power on a global scale.

For further historical details on this site, see the description for 'A' Magazine.

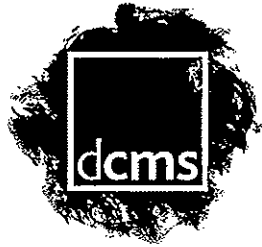
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**PRIDDY'S HARD
Shell Painting Room**

GV

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Shell painting room. 1900/01. Steel framed, with English bond brick walling to panels, slate roof on steel trusses. Long free-standing-shed in 12 bays, hipped ends. The entrance end has a central pair of wide plank doors, and above these is the continuous glazing between stanchions, here in 3 bays, but temporarily blocked. The long returns have a similar continuous clerestory band in three 4-pane



22nd Amdt
17/04/2009

timber lights to eight bays, but 2 lights each to two bays at each end (corresponding with hipped section) and all set in to the I-stanchions between bays; the rear is as the front. Above the window strip is a deep plank valance with scalloped ends. To the left of the doors at the front are remains of an original cantilevered canopy on cast-iron brackets to a cycle rack.

INTERIOR: timber trusses. The narrow gauge tramway ran the length of the building at its centre.

HISTORY: This building was positioned on the transit system that linked the Shell Filling Rooms, Fuzing Rooms sited outside the ramparts to the remainder of the site. It was built in 1900/01, its style being characteristic of the distinctive architectural mark that the navy imposed on those ordnance yards that came under its administration in 1890. It is the best-preserved of three painters' shops and a structure relating to a key function relating to the production of shells for warships on this site. The variety of naval ordnance available required the colour coding of ammunition and containers, and the varnishing of shell interiors to prevent the formation of salts.

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PRIDDY'S HARD
Case Store Exhibition and
Conference Rooms and Rolling
Way to S of 'B' Magazine

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Stores for empty shell cases, with part of Rolling Way attached. This Case Store of 1865 was rebuilt 1877-83 in brick, the roof being reused. Brick in modified Flemish bond, with slate roof. It is a long narrow range with low-pitched hipped roof, and has four 6-pane and one 8-pane lights. Attached to the S end is a 2-storeyed gabled unit of 1901, in brick with slate roof. It is in four bays, with vertical lights set to concrete lintels. The later building, which is now a conference centre and includes a further mid C20 addition, is thought to replace an earlier one on the site, and retains the previous wood-block floor, and king-post trusses.

To the E side of the 1865 Case Store, comprising a brick-walled lean-to, is the former Rolling Way that enabled explosives to be transported from the Camber to the Laboratory complex (qv).

HISTORY: This building comprises a prominent part of the core group at Priddy's Hard, forming the eastern boundary to this part of the site. Case stores are associated with the introduction of shells into naval service, each shell being individually packed into its own wooden box. It is one of a series of such rooms, comprising one of the core group of buildings on this uniquely important site. The