



22nd Audit
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in reaction to a perceived threat from the French, obsolete only 20 years after their construction. The smooth-bore 68-pounder had been the largest gun in service at the time of the Crimean War. Vast quantities of powder were needed as propellant and explosive filling for shells of the 110-ton monster guns of the 1880s, a decade which saw the development of more effective breech-loading systems and the emergence of the 12-inch gun as the standard naval armament.

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
Empty Powder Case Store
(Building 312), Museum
Buildings, to SW of Camber

GV

II

Empty Powder Case store, now part of Museum. 1891. Brick in English bond, slate roof on steel trusses.

A free-standing half-hipped shed in 7 bays, lying N/S near the S side of the Rolling Way (gc). Brick piers expressed externally on W side, and with 3 casement windows; the short S end has a wide opening with concrete lintel, and the E side adjoins the shed for Empty Powder Cases and Barrels (qv).

INTERIOR has steel trusses with angles for struts and bar as ties carry 4 purlins and rafters with boarding.

HISTORY: These stores are associated with the introduction of shells into naval service, each shell being individually packed into its own wooden box. Located immediately to the W of Building 418 (qv), it is one of a series of such rooms, comprising one of the core group of buildings on this uniquely important site. A probable rebuild of an earlier building on the same site. The rail system to 'C' Magazine (qv) passed through at the centre of the long sides.

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