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Museum now historic site

The old law courts building in Bastion Square, now the Maritime Museum of British Columbia, was officially declared a national historic site Saturday.

Victoria MP Allan McKinnon unveiled a Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada plaque which was to be mounted on the outside wall of the building at the ceremony.

The building received this designation because of its significance in B.C. history.

The plaque says the Victoria Law Courts, opened in 1889, was the first major public building constructed by

the provincial government after union with Canada.

"Previously, court sessions had been held in one of the colonial administration buildings located on the site of the present provincial legislature.

"Removal of the courts to Bastion Square marked an important stage in the evolution of British Columbia's court system and the start of a programme to erect permanent court houses in judicial districts throughout the province.

"Trials continued to be held in the building until 1962."