

Building No. 4 was constructed in 1916. Interior alterations and a small rear addition were undertaken at unknown dates. The building is currently used as a research building. The Department of National Defence is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 99-90c.

### Reasons for Designation

Building No. 4 has been designated "Recognized" because of its historical associations, architectural value and its environmental significance.

The building is associated with two nationally significant themes: the development of telecommunications in Canada and the military defence of the country. Built by the Compagnie Française des Câbles Télégraphiques, the building served as the company's Canadian headquarters from which it operated ocean-going vessels to lay and repair their trans-Atlantic communication cables. As the sole surviving building on the Dartmouth shore following the 1917 Halifax harbour explosion, and one of only two cable buildings that survive in the Halifax harbour, the building testifies to an important period in the local development of the harbour when several foreign cable companies established themselves in the Halifax area.

The building was subsequently used as a physical plant and research building by Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) for research and development of undersea warfare and marine vehicle technology.

The building is an early and well executed example of a reinforced concrete structure, whose functional design, craftsmanship and materials have permitted its later accommodation of interior diving tanks and heavy equipment. The exterior of the two-storey building, while of relatively simple design, displays a confident handling of the classically-derived architectural elements. The later addition of a one storey addition to the rear of the building has not significantly impacted on the character of the building. The original simple layout of the building's interior has been significantly modified.

The essential relationship between Building No. 4 and its immediate landscape has been retained, and, as the earliest contributing element to the semi-industrial character of the wharf, the building is a familiar structure on the waterfront.

### Character Defining Elements

The character of the building is defined by its historic associations, functional design and its modest classically-inspired composition and detailing.

The functional design of the building is expressed by its early 20th Century reinforced concrete construction and the somewhat irregular placement of the simple window openings.

As a good, early example of reinforced concrete construction, the building's surviving exterior surface material contributes to its character.

Its classically-inspired composition consists of a simple square massing, with a projecting foundation base, framing corner pilasters, cornice and flat roof line.

The modest ornamentation reinforces the building's classical character and includes panelled corner pilasters, raised window trim, and moulded cornice.

The cornice inscription, "Compagnie Française des Cables Télégraphiques", testifies to the building's historical association with the development of telecommunications in Canada.

The building's size, presence and retention of its relationship with its immediate landscape all reinforce the industrial character of the wharf.

For further guidance on the management of historic buildings, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*.

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