

FINAL

FOX-M Station

The Garage (building B1 0A) was constructed in 1955-6 on the operations sector of the FOX-M station of the former Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line. It was erected using standard DEW Line plans drawn by the New York architectural firm of LaPierre, Litchfield and Partners under the direction of the American engineering firm Western Electric Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of Bell System. No alternations have been made to its exterior. The building is still used as a garage. The Department of National Defence is the custodian of the building. See FHBRO Building Report 99-021.

Reasons for Designation

The Garage at the FOX-M station has been designated “Classified” because of its important historical associations, its relationship to the environment in a heritage setting and the qualities of its architectural design.

The primary historical theme identified for the building is its role in continental air-defence programs during the Cold War. It was part of one of four main stations constructed for the DEW Line, a joint US-Canada effort to monitor Arctic airspace and provide advance warning to North American military authorities of a possible air attack from the Soviet Union through an innovative radar and radio system. As one of four main stations along the DEW Line, FOX-M also served as a regional communications hub, supply centre and administrative base for 8 to 10 auxiliary and intermediate stations in the area. The Garage played a critical role in servicing and maintaining the equipment and buildings on the isolated DEW Line station.

Secondary themes for the building are its contribution to the opening of the Canadian Arctic to programs and services delivered and managed by the federal government; its status as an example of innovative building technology in the Canadian Arctic; and its role in establishing and maintaining a Canadian military presence in the Canadian Arctic.

The Garage is also part of a military establishment that was a catalyst for the growth of an important Arctic community, namely Hall Beach.

The station is distinguished from other former stations by its relative completeness in terms of the number of original structures that have remained on the site and the survival of the supporting engineering works such as the airfield. The FOX-M DEW Line station retains its technological and military appearance through: the arrangement and form of its buildings; the survival of the gravel pad that defines the two occupied sectors of the station; and the continuance of associated communications structures

FINAL

FOX-M Station

such as the radome and radar billboards.

The Garage is situated within the operations sector of the FOX-M DEW Line station. The structure occupies a site on the gravel bed that creates a uniform surface for the operations sector. The integrity of the historic relationship between the Garage and its immediate landscape continues.

As part of the first set of structures designed and built for the DEW Line station, the Garage is of strategic value in contributing to the technological/military character of the site as a whole. The scale of the building also helps to distinguish this station from the smaller intermediate stations.

The Garage exhibits the same competency of construction seen in other DEW Line station buildings. It is a utilitarian, one-storey pitched-roof structure covered in steel cladding. Its high-quality materials and tested pre-fabricated components are part of a design program that responded directly to both military considerations and to the remote Arctic location of the site. Its raised platform foundation and the gravel pad in the building area also demonstrate a competent engineering solution for building in permafrost conditions that set a standard for construction across the North.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Garage resides in its form, construction and site relationships.

The Garage is a utilitarian but well-engineered building characterized by a simple form and the use of a limited number of solid construction materials. As designed and constructed, the Garage contained a workshop and vehicle storage bays. The steel framed structure of rectangular plan is covered by a medium-pitch metal roof. The walls are composed of metal prefabricated panels. The main facade facing Module Train 'B' contains a personnel door and five overhead doors that reflect the building's function. All openings are framed in metal and the doors are clad with steel. In respect of its utilitarian function, the form of the building with its arrangement and scale of openings should be respected; and, the metal components of the exterior walls, framed openings and the roof should be maintained.

The Garage was engineered to reduce the amount of heat that could be transferred from the small office and workshop portions within the building to the permafrost ground by raising their floors above ground level. The non-heated parts of the building, used

FINAL

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for storing vehicles, are at ground level on a concrete floor to facilitate vehicular access. This arrangement should be respected.

The Garage is located on a thick layer of gravel that covers the operations sector of the DEW Line station. As the primary landscape feature, the gravel pad should be respected. The Garage is also set parallel to Module Train 'B' in alignment with other smaller service buildings. This arrangement of buildings helps establish the military character of the station. Any further site development should respect the strict alignment and established character of the remaining buildings on the station.

For further guidance, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*.

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