

FINAL

FOX-M Station

Warehouse No. 2 (building B1 3B) was constructed around 1960 on the airfield 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 subsidiary of Bell System. The warehouse was used to store supplies and equipment. No alterations have been made to its exterior. The Department of National Defence is the custodian of the building. See FHBRO Building Report 99-021.

Reasons for Designation

Warehouse No. 2 at the FOX-M station has been designated “Classified” because of its important historical associations, the qualities of its architectural design and its relationship to the environment in a heritage setting.

The primary historical theme identified for the building is its role in continental air-defence programs during the Cold War. As part of one of four main stations constructed for the DEW Line, Warehouse No. 2 was part of a joint US-Canada effort to monitor Arctic airspace through an innovative radar and radio system designed to provide advance warning to North American military authorities of a possible air attack from the Soviet Union. 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.

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.

Warehouse No. 2 is also part of a military establishment that was a catalyst for the establishment and growth of an important Arctic community, namely Hall Beach.

Warehouse No. 2 exhibits the same competency of construction seen in other DEW Line station structures. 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

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permafrost conditions that set a standard for construction across the Canadian North.

FOX-M DEW Line 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 such as the radome and radar billboards.

Warehouse No. 2 is situated on the airfield sector of the FOX-M DEW Line station. The integrity of the historic relationship between Warehouse No. 2 and its immediate landscape continues.

As part of the set of structures built in the first five years of the station's operation, Warehouse No. 2 is of strategic value in maintaining the technological/military character of the site as a whole. As a building type, it also helps distinguish main DEW Line stations from the smaller and less complex intermediate stations.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of Warehouse No. 2 resides in its form, construction and site relationships.

Warehouse No. 2 is a utilitarian but well-engineered building characterized by a simple form and the use of a limited number of solid construction materials. This simple form should be respected. The steel framed structure is covered by a medium-pitched metal roof. The walls are composed of metal prefabricated panels. Openings are restricted to an overhead door, a window and a personnel door on the main gabled facade and two personnel doors on the opposite gable end. All openings are framed in metal and the doors are clad with steel. The metal components of the building reflect the construction technology demanded by the remote location in that era. These metal components of the exterior walls, framed openings and the roof should be respected.

The foundation of Warehouse No. 2, like other heated buildings along the DEW Line, was engineered to reduce the amount of heat that could be transferred from the building to the permafrost ground. The building has a concrete foundation but the floor is supported by an open structural steel deck raised about one metre above ground level. This competent permafrost solution helps insulate the heated building from the

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permafrost ground while allowing snow to circulate under the building, thereby reducing snow drifts. The deck structure with its open sides should be respected.

Warehouse No. 2 is located on a thick layer of gravel that covers the entire airfield sector of the DEW Line station. As the primary landscape feature, the gravel pad should be respected. Warehouse No. 2 is also set within a tightly formed line of three warehouse structures: this arrangement of buildings reinforces the military character of the station. Any further site development should respect the strict alignment and established character of remaining buildings on the station.

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

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