Aircraft Hangar No. 4

4 Wing Cold Lake, Cold Lake, Alberta

Construction:
1954 (Department of National Defence, with Ross, Patterson, Townsend & Fish of Montreal), modifications in 1970s and 1980s

Original function:
Aircraft repair, maintenance, and storage, plus support space

Current function:
Aircraft repair, maintenance, and storage, plus support space

Custodian:
Department of National Defence (DND)

FHBRO status:
‘Recognized’ Federal Heritage Building

Reasons for designation

Aircraft Hangar No. 4 is a ‘Recognized’ Federal Heritage Building because of its historical, architectural, and environmental values:

Historical value: Hangar No. 4 at 4 Wing Cold Lake, a post-war base for training military personnel in air weaponry, is associated with Canada’s national defence and the commitment of the Canadian government, in the 1950s, to international military preparedness. It was constructed in 1954 as one of the 21 original buildings of the base, which was designed and operated as an independent community until 1996, when it became part of the municipality of Cold Lake.

Architectural value: Hangar No. 4 was constructed according to a standard plan that reflects the DND’s preference, in the early 1950s, for functional, economical, and conservative designs. About half the size of Hangar No. 1, it is similar in size and design to the base’s other four hangars. Its most prominent feature is its gently curved roof, which rises above the wide, high doorways of its two side elevations. These are flanked by brick-covered pylons that serve as door pockets. The two-storey elevations facing the base and runway, set back from these pockets, have functional arrangements of doors and windows, and the runway side has a projecting observation bay. The walls were clad mainly in corrugated asbestos cement panels, and the roof was covered with asbestos panels. Inside, the spacious, lofty hangar has a curved ceiling supported by steel bowstring trusses and flanked by two-storey support spaces. Despite many modifications - an addition on the runway side, the replacement of the cladding, and the installation of insulation, new windows, and a metal projection above the aircraft doors - the original design is legible.
Environmental value: Hangar No. 4, located along the northeast-heading runway of the base’s L-shaped arrangement of runways, is an integral part of the high-security aircraft zone and enjoys comfortable spatial and visual relationships with the other hangars, the runways, and the base.

Character-defining elements

The following character-defining elements of Aircraft Hangar No. 4 should be respected:

*Its illustration of Canadian military defence and the federal government’s commitment, since the Second World War, to international defence preparedness:*
  - Its continued use, for over 50 years, for the purpose for which it was designed: the repair, maintenance, and storage of aircraft used for air weaponry, and related administrative, service, and training activities.

*Its functional, economical design and high-quality construction:*
  - Its impressive scale, and its dynamic form, dominated by its gently curved roof.
  - Its good-quality workmanship and appropriate use of materials.
  - The high, wide doorways that span its east and west elevations, the raised central sections for particularly high aircraft, and the brick pylons at each end.
  - The arrangement of windows and doors on its north and south elevations.
  - Its interior layout, which clearly distinguishes between its two related functions: a wide, high, column-free volume for parking, repairing, and maintaining aircraft, and related two-storey office, work, and service spaces on each side.
  - The interior structure and finishes of its hangar space: the exposed bowstring truss system, the wood roof deck, the reinforced concrete slab floor, the windows and balconies of the adjacent office and service spaces.

*Its spatial relationships with the runways, the other hangars, and the rest of the base:*
  - Its comfortable position within the L-shaped arrangement of runways and hangars that forms the base’s high-security zone, and the visual and physical link between its base-facing elevation and the community.

For guidance on interventions, refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice.* For further information, contact FHBRO.
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