

## **FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT BUILDING 1, HMCS DISCOVERY, VANCOUVER**

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FHBRO number: **97-74**  
DFRP number: **16876**  
Resource name: **Building 1, Administration Building**  
Address: **HMCS Discovery, 1200 Stanley Park Drive, Vancouver, B.C.**  
FHBRO status: **“Recognized” Federal Heritage Building**  
Construction: **1943**  
Designer: **Department of National Defence staff, under Chief Architect, A.K. Mills**  
Original function: **Administration offices and classrooms for naval reserve**  
Current function: **Same**  
Modifications: **Replacement of roof and windows, interior renovations and upgrading.**  
Custodian: **Department of National Defence**

### **Reasons for Designation**

Building 1 is a “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values:

#### Historical value:

Building 1 is associated the history of the Canadian volunteer naval reserve, and with naval training during the Second World War. Building 1 and the other facilities at Deadman’s Island were built during the war to accommodate the local naval reserve unit, HMCS Discovery, and to answer the great need for wartime naval training facilities. Deadman’s Island had been a military reserve since 1858, but Building 1 was part of the first permanent construction on the island.

#### Architectural value:

Building 1 is a good example of the Georgian Revival Style and is a classically-ordered composition, with elements of the as expressed in its windows, use of materials, and devotion to symmetry. This two and a half storey building with two storey wings is one of several examples of the use of the Georgian Revival style in government buildings at mid-century. The building is functional in design, with rooms for offices, classrooms, washrooms and an officers’ wardroom arranged around a central foyer and stairs on three levels. A separate drill hall is directly accessible from the rear of the building. The building was constructed using high-quality materials and craftsmanship and has been well-maintained. The building was designed under the supervision of A. K. Mills, Chief Architect, Department of National Defence.

#### Environmental value:

Building 1 reinforces the picturesque setting and is located on Deadman’s Island, a small island joined by a causeway and bridge to Stanley Park. As viewed from the Stanley Park Seawall Path, Building 1 presents all the elements of a picturesque composition, in which a stately building is surrounded by tailored grounds, a water forecourt, a small bridge and a guardhouse. By virtue of its siting and architecture, Building 1 dominates the setting, and is a well-known landmark.

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### **Character-Defining Elements**

The following character-defining elements of Building 1 should be respected:

Its role as an illustration of the importance of naval training during the Second World War is reflected in:

- its prominent siting, imposing architecture and fine craftsmanship;

Its consistency with the Georgian Revival Style, as manifested in:

- the symmetry of its massing, in which three flat-roofed wings are set evenly around a central, hip-roofed section;
- the presentation of the front facade, in which the central section is given greater prominence in height, depth and detailing, than the slightly-recessed flanking wings;
- the symmetry of its openings, in which windows are evenly spaced throughout the composition and a recessed entrance is centrally placed on the front facade;
- the detailing of its openings, including elliptical windows; bold, white, concrete surrounds; and fan-shaped brick window-heads;
- the brick detailing throughout, including string courses at even intervals on the central section and at ceiling and sill level.

The manner in which it reinforces the picturesque character of the setting, as evidenced in:

- its location on an island, close to the shoreline and facing the water;
- its location near the causeway, bridge and main entrance to the island;
- the strength of its visibility from the Stanley Park Seawall Path;
- the circular driveway, groomed lawn and sculpted shrubs and trees surrounding the building.

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

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