

Victoria, British Columbia

Aldergrove Building (DREP DY 199)

HMC Dockyard, Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt
DFRP 17403

The Aldergrove Building (DREP DY 199) was built in 1954 in the CFB Esquimalt Dockyard. It was designed by Sharp & Thompson Berwick Pratt of Vancouver. The Department of National Defense is the custodian of the building. The CFB Esquimalt Dockyard is one of four components of the Esquimalt Naval Sites, National Historic Station Site of Canada. See FHBRO Building Report 00-09.

Reasons for Designation

The Aldergrove Building has been designated Recognized because of its historical, architectural, and environmental significance.

The Aldergrove Building is associated with the role of research in Canadian naval defence in the post-World War II period, and the modernization and consolidation of the Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt to include research and development facilities. The construction of the Aldergrove Building was in direct response to the Korean and Cold Wars and Canadian participation in NATO, and the result of a major change in infrastructure aimed at replacing outdated facilities with specialized, purpose-built accommodations.

Purpose-built in the International Style, the laboratory was designed with the assistance of the research scientists to be functional and efficient, resulting in a highly adaptable interior layout.

The building is located on a promontory overlooking Juan de Fuca Strait, and its utilitarian site remains largely unchanged. The building reinforces the modern character of its setting.

Character-Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Aldergrove Building resides in the following character-defining elements:

- As an illustration of the role of research in Canadian naval defence in the post-World War II period, and the modernization and consolidation of the Canadian Forces Base Esquimalt to include research and development facilities, the functional design of this purpose-built laboratory is characterized by an efficient and adaptable interior layout.
- The building's modern design sensibilities as manifested in the bold, articulated and asymmetrical elevations; the clear sense of horizontality created by the use of bands of windows shaded with brises soleils and the railing along the edge of

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the flat roof; the use of vertical windows to express the presence of the stairwell on the exterior of the building; and the materials such as the reinforced concrete frame, steel windows, and stucco finish.

- The building's spatial relationship with its immediate context and the manner in which it reinforces the modern character of the coherent group of buildings located inside the main gate and south of Hospital Road, dating to the mid-1940's and 1950's phase of development of the CFB Esquimalt Dockyard.

All maintenance and repair work, as well as future interventions, should aim to respect and enhance these character-defining elements.

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

2001.12.14