

## FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT RALSTON SCHOOL, CFB SUFFIELD

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FHBRO number: **96-41**  
DFRP number: **14976**  
Resource name: **Ralston School, Building R2**  
Address: **CFB Suffield, Suffield, Alberta**  
FHBRO status: **“Recognized” Federal Heritage Building**  
Construction: **1950 (six-room school)**  
Designer: **Drever Smith architects, Kingston, Ontario**  
Original function: **elementary school for military dependents**  
Current function: **elementary and junior high school**  
Modifications: **Three-room addition (1954); classroom addition to north end (1981); addition (1986-7); some windows bricked in (1988); windows replaced (1989); access ramp added (1992); roof replaced (1995 and 2000).**  
Custodian: ~~Daniel D. [redacted]~~  
**since 1993)**

### Reasons for Designation

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

#### Historical value:

Ralston School is associated with the expansion of the Canadian military force during the Cold War and the accompanying construction program undertaken during the 1950s to provide permanent, high-quality accommodation for this force. Ralston School was one of many elementary schools constructed on bases as part of the community and support facilities provided by the Department of National Defence to military families.

#### Architectural value:

Ralston School is an example of the International style as it was applied to civilian and military school design during the 1950s, and consisted of a one storey plan, multi-classroom structures and were situated on large open sites. The school's functional design continues to provide service as an elementary school. The original six-room school was designed by the Kingston, Ontario, architectural firm of Drever and Smith.

#### Environmental value:

Ralston School reinforces the residential and recreational character of the setting and is situated on a large, open site within the residential section of CFB Suffield known as the Village of Ralston. It continues to be surrounded by open sports fields and is generally compatible with nearby recreational and residential buildings. The school is well-known in the community by virtue of its prominent location and its function as an elementary school.

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**FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDING REVIEW OFFICE**  
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### **Character-Defining Elements**

The following character-defining elements of Ralston School should be respected:

Its use of the elements from the International Style, in conformity with typical mid-20th-century school design as manifested in:

- the low, horizontal massing; asymmetrical composition; flat roof; horizontal bands of windows, and absence of decoration;

The manner in which it reinforces the residential and recreational character of the setting as evidenced in:

- its large, open site, surrounded by sports fields.

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

January 2003