
HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT
FHBRO Number 99-032

Cold Lake, Alberta

Hangar 3

4 Wing Cold Lake

DFRP# 15684

Hangar 3 was constructed in 1953 to the designs of Ross, Patterson, Townsend & Fish Architects of Montreal in collaboration with the design group at RCAF Headquarters. The building is currently used for servicing aircraft and various office functions. The Department of National Defence is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 99-32.

Reasons for Designation

Hangar 3 has been designated Recognized because of its historical associations, the functional qualities of its architectural design, and its environmental significance.

Hangar 3 is associated with Canada's national defense and its commitments to international military preparedness under the Charter of the United Nations and NATO, and the buildup of Canadian military armed forces including the upgrading of its air component in the post-World War II era. Hangar 3 is also associated with Canada's increasing role in air training in the early 1960's in response to Canada's commitments to continental defense under the NORAD agreement. Hangar 3 is one of the original 21 buildings associated with the establishment of the base in the early 1950's.

Hangar 3 is a "Standard Design" 1 60'-0" span structural steel hangar designed to house flight squadrons and provide office space, and is a very good example of modern functionalist architecture influenced by the International Style. Based on engineering solutions and expressions, the hangar's enormous roof span was designed to handle snow loading and produced a large, extremely flexible work environment.

Hangar 3 is located on the northwest-to-southeast runway facing onto the aircraft apron, and is reinforced by the presence of two other hangars which together, form a hangar line. Although the base has expanded considerably since the construction of Hangar 3 and the original 21 buildings associated with its founding, Hangar 3's generous grounds have been preserved.

Character Defining Elements

As an illustration of Canada's national defense and its commitments to international military preparedness during the post-World War II era the simple, functional design of the building including the arched, long span hangar space used for housing and maintaining the aircraft, the flanking lateral office and equipment storage spaces and central entrance, all bookended by the two massive pocket door towers, reflect the role of this 1950's Cold War hangar in training pilots, flight crews and support staff for

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Canada's air force.

The modern functionalist aesthetic based on engineering solutions and expressions is manifested in:

- the integrated composition consisting of simple, inter-related geometric forms such as the segmented arched roof of the principal space, the massive rectangular towers that house the telescoping, sliding steel doors, the two-storey flat-roofed office wings that extend along both sides of the hangar, the cubic entrance module, and the long lateral ribbon windows of the office spaces;
- the honest expression of the long span, three-hinged segmented steel truss arches which frame the bowed roof and create a large, austere, column-free space and extremely flexible space suitable for the storage and maintenance of aircraft;

The character of the relationship between the building and the surrounding environment is manifested in:

- the legible hangar line formed by Hangar 3 and other virtually identical structures along the east side of Hangar Lane Road;
- the open relationship between Hangar 3 and the asphalt aircraft apron on the south-east side of the building.

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

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