

FHBRO Number 94-90

Trenton, Ontario

**Building 22**

CFB Trenton

Building 22 at Canadian Forces Base Trenton was originally designed as a barrack block in 1932 by the Department of National Defence, Engineer Services Branch. During the 1970s the building was converted to offices to accommodate Base Headquarters and continues to serve this purpose. The Department of National Defence is the custodian. Externally few alterations have taken place. Internally all floors have been refitted as offices although the circulation pattern has generally been maintained. See FHBRO Building Report 94-90.

**Reasons For Designation**

Building 22 at CFB Trenton was designated Recognized for its environmental significance, architectural importance, and historical associations.

Laid out in the late 1920s and 1930s, and planned as Canada's principal air force land and sea plane training base, CFB Trenton was designed as a state-of-the-art modern-style military station. Built as a three storey barrack block with a semi-basement to house single service personnel, Building 22 was the first completed of four identical such buildings planned as an ensemble, each sited on a quadrant of a rectangular block, and erected sequentially between 1932-37. As part of this ensemble, Building 22 is significant for being a component of the grouping of original permanent base buildings including Hangers 50 and 51(1931), the Administration Building (1934), the Officer's Mess (1936), Hanger49 (1936) and the NCOs Mess (1938).

Architecturally, the simple, classical, rectilinear plan and massing of the barracks, the bold International Modern/Art Deco styling, feature elements and white-painted stucco finishes, reflect the functional design and construction methods favoured by the RCAF in this period. This continues internally with the surviving circulation layout.

Building 22 is associated with the post-1930s economic and social development of Trenton, the development of the RCAF as an independent wing of the Canadian military, Canadian military air training, including the WW2 British Commonwealth Air Training Program centred at Trenton, and more recently with international military, peacekeeping and humanitarian missions, as a transportation base.

**Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of the Barrack Block Building 22 lies in its site relationships, in its 1930s International Modern / Art-Deco style design and materials, and internally in

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its circulation patterns, general layout and surviving original internal finishes and stairs.

Building 22, as the north-east corner element of the ensemble of four barrack blocks which together form a prominent base orientation landmark, contributes significantly to the grid and axial planning, unity, and overall 1930s design character of the station due to its scale, form, styling and white-painted stucco finishes. Any future developments or landscape alterations should respect the relationship between Building 22 and the other barrack blocks, and between this ensemble and the base as a whole. The flowing open space between, permitting all-round views of the barrack blocks, and long vistas terminating on the centres of neighbouring 1930s base buildings, should also be respected and maintained.

With a central pavilion block and four attached rectangular pavilion wings at each corner defining three-sided courts to the north and south sides, and with lightwells to the east and west sides between the wings, Building 22 is characterized by its classical, symmetrical planning and International Modern / Art Deco styling as expressed by its flat roof, clean lines and painted-white stucco surfaces. The projecting balconies over the principal entrance and at the wing pavilion ends, the central pavilion stair bays, and the entrance court porches are important elements. The balconies, which cast dramatic shadows, should remain open and unglazed. The elevations should continue to maintain their matching design relationship with the adjacent barrack blocks.

The barrack block maintains its regularly spaced window pattern generally, although outer windows have been replaced with aluminium. Surviving original wood sash windows should be respected and conserved. If replaced, new window designs should be based on original dimensions, fenestration pattern, materials and colours.

Internally, although refitted, Building 22 retains its original "H" plan circulation layout, stairwells with balustrading, and first floor entrances, which continue the symmetrical planning and building design aesthetic. These should be respected and maintained complete with surviving original feature elements, finishes, trim and fixtures.

1998.05.06

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

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