

FHBRO Number 95-32

Trenton, Ontario

18 Caribou Crescent (Building 42, VIP Private Married Quarters)

CFB Trenton

18 Caribou Crescent at Canadian Forces Base Trenton, a large detached house built in 1939, was designed by the Department of National Defence, Engineer Services Branch, to serve as VIP private married quarters. This two-storey building with a semibasement retains its original function. The Department of National Defence is the custodian. Few alterations have taken place. See FHBRO Building Report 95-32.

Reasons For Designation

18 Caribou Crescent at CFB Trenton was designated Recognized for its environmental significance and architectural importance.

Planned in the late 1920s and 1930s as Canada's principal air force training base, CFB Trenton has maintained this role. A key component of the base's original planning is an ensemble of large, detached, suburban-type houses for senior officers in a park-like setting on a cul-de-sac to the east side of the base's grid plan. The largest of this ensemble is 18 Caribou Crescent.

Architecturally, with its late 1930s form and applied Tudor-Revival elements and details typical of middle class suburban housing of this period, 18 Caribou Crescent contrasts with the otherwise more avant-garde/International-modern styling of the other base buildings. However this house is functional in planning, clean in detailing and finishes and reflects the design aesthetics and construction methods favoured by the RCAF for senior officer's housing in this period.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of 18 Caribou Crescent derives from its location and relationships with neighbouring spaces and buildings, its typical late 1930s suburban Tudor-Revival design and materials, and internally from its layout and intact surviving original interior decorative elements, treatments and stairs.

Set in a mid-20th century suburban park-like setting, a contrast to the grid and axial planning of the rest of the base, 18 Caribou Crescent is the largest among the ensemble of detached senior officers houses. It is also the closest of the ensemble to the Parade Ground and Officer's Mess and it is the most visible. Any future developments or landscape alterations should respect its open setting on a turf-grass plane among mature deciduous trees, with shrubs serving as foundation planting.

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Relationships between the house and the suburban-planned ensemble of senior officers houses, and between the 1930s buildings and the grid-planning of the base to the west, should be respected.

With a rectilinear footprint, 18 Caribou Crescent is characterized by its picturesque asymmetrical composition, domestic scale massing, pitched roofs, applied TudorRevival style elements, simple lines, white-painted stucco surfaces, fenestration with metal railings and doors. The large, asymmetrical projecting entrance gable with stained wood fascia boards, the chimney, the garage and room above with a dormer window and the rear sun-lounge are character-defining elements.

The house retains its original painted wood sash windows complete with their muntin bars. If replaced, new windows should ' match exactly the original design, materials, dimensions, colours and operation of the originals. Similarly, new storm windows on the exterior should be designed with painted wood frames and reflect the fenestration pattern of the original windows.

Internally, 18 Caribou Crescent retains largely intact its original internal planning, volumes, stairs, finishes, trim, doors and frames. These should all be respected and maintained, complete with their original surviving feature elements, including fireplaces complete with ironmongery, stair balustrades, bathroom tiling and radiators.

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