

## HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT FHBRO Number 94-088

Borden, Ontario

### **Dyte Hall (Building A78)**

CFB Borden

Dyte Hall is a drill hall constructed in 1939 and designed by the Royal Canadian Engineers. Alterations include roof and eaves replacement and the addition of fixed louvered metal panels to the drill hall's large windows. Originally designed as a drill hall with a rifle range and bowling alley at the rear, it currently functions as a curling arena and archery range. The Department of National Defence is the custodian. See FHBRO Case File No. 94-088.

### **Reasons for Designation**

Dyte Hall has been designated "Recognized" because of its historical, architectural and environmental significance.

The construction of Dyte Hall is directly associated with the expansion of the Canadian Armed Forces and their facilities prior to and during the Second World War, and reflects the full scale development of the base at this time.

Dyte Hall is a fine example of military architecture. It is characterized by its uncompromisingly functional design, its quality construction materials and its simplified classically-inspired features. These include symmetrical elevations, the use of pilasters, arches at the main entrance and the rustication of the brick work at the entranceway.

Dyte Hall is situated within the Royal Canadian Air Force complex of buildings east of the sports field at CFB Borden and serves as one of the base's recreational facilities. The original character of the site has been retained since its construction. In its massing, materials and detailing, Dyte Hall reinforces the character of this area of the base. As one of the older wartime structures at Borden it is a familiar landmark to military personnel.

### **Character Defining Elements**

The heritage character of Dyte Hall resides in its large scale, form and massing, construction materials, interior layout and features, and site relationships.

The massing consists of a large rectangular main building with a low pitched roof, with shallow one-storey annexes along the front and the rear elevations. The simple

footprint, rooflines and massing reflect the symmetry and the large volume essential to

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the drill hall function. The front annex has a centrally-located, slightly protruding entrance block which rises modestly above the roof profile of the annex. The rear annex is a long, largely windowless space reflecting its role as an archery range.

Dyte Hall is a well-constructed steel frame building with masonry infill exterior walls. This masonry construction is a good example of the use of structural clay tile to provide lateral strength and stability to the steel frame structure. The exterior tiles, each the height of two common bricks, visually reduce the scale of this large building. Simplified, classically-inspired detailing is uniformly applied to all elevations. The exterior corners and pilasters subtly project from the building elevations to create vertical emphasis along the elevations. The main entrance features a newer simple central arched opening, which is flanked on either side with two smaller arched openings, and rusticated brick detailing to create visual interest. The masonry merits an ongoing maintenance program and conservation expertise in techniques for repair and replacement.

Tall, narrow, window openings are situated along all elevations of the main body of the building. They are symmetrically arranged and alternate with the pilasters. These windows are currently covered with louvered panels. These windows should be carefully inspected and remedial action should be dictated by conservation guidance.

On the front annex elevation the windows are arranged symmetrically on either side of the entrance. They are twelve-light wood windows with a four-light operating ventilator within the upper portion and are covered with an exterior metal screening. The windows are an important component of the building's character and should be maintained.

The interior of the hall is divided into three areas: the front annex with its main entrance and offices, the main hall/arena, and the rear annex which contains the archery range. The arena is a large spartan space which features an exposed steel truss system. Expressing the structure, the structural steel columns in the exterior walls form pilasters which divide the large interior space into bays. The presence of the exposed steel structure and the masonry infill walls are important to the heritage character of the building and should be retained.

Dyte Hall is located on a level ground plane surrounded on all four sides by the base's roadway system. The building's clear relationship with the roads and with the buildings

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in its immediate vicinity should be maintained.

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

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