

## HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

FHBRO Number 94-88, Building A-74  
DFRP No.11022  
Recognized Federal Heritage Building

C.F.B. BORDEN, Ontario  
Maple Mess  
Building A-74, Camp Borden

Constructed in 1940, the Maple Mess is one of large group of structures erected during World War II to support the functions of C.F.B. Borden (known popularly in the period as Camp Borden) as a major military installation for personnel training, assembly and field testing, used by both army and air force. The building remains in use for food services and administrative support within a larger complex of base recreational and residential uses.

### Reasons for Designation

The Maple Mess has been designated Recognized for its architectural significance, its historical associations, and its environmental qualities.

### Historical significance

After more than a decade of deliberation, Camp Borden was established in 1916 to relieve overcrowded facilities in central Ontario during World War I, and has been in continuous military use since. Along with dozens of other structures, the Maple Mess was constructed in 1940 as Camp Borden was in the throes of rapid development for wartime training, personnel assembly and equipment testing.

Camp Borden had been an early home of the Royal Canadian Air Force, but its primary role in the early years of World War II was as a major marshaling point for military units and equipment from central and western Canada in preparation for conflict in Europe. As part of the wartime production effort, the base served as testing ground for armoured vehicles, artillery, and signals. C.F.B. Borden trained both aircrews, and army units in the operation of new equipment.

The Maple Mess, as well as almost all of the structures of the period, was constructed by the military as a support facility. Its associations with the war effort place the building and its environs as a modest but notable component of C.F.B. Borden's historic associations with military and industrial themes.

### Architectural significance

The Maple Mess is a single-storey structure with a complex plan, approximating two Y-shaped layouts joined by their tails. While there are many multiple-winged plans at C.F.B. Borden, this configuration is unique. Both main and rear elevations were laterally symmetrical in their original form, and both front and rear landscapes are similar.

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The plan comprises a central pavilion with two arms projecting at 45-degree angles to a landscaped front forecourt with a circular driveway. There is a similar frontage and wings facing a circular service drive to the rear. The shingled roofs have a relatively steep pitch, about 30 degrees, and terminate in hips on the front elevation, and gables to the rear. There are several brick chimneys. The main entrance, up a short flight of external stairs, is a broad, flat-roofed projection from the main structure. The wings to the rear show evidence of minor modification from the original configuration.

The exterior walls are of oversize clay bricks on a gray cement base. The windows are almost all vertical wooden sash, subdivided by muntins into four or six panes apiece. These are of various combinations; the well-lit main frontage comprises triplet units between brick pilasters, while the remainder of the building offers both single and triple units according to the requirements of the rooms behind. The main entrance is a double door with glazing and sidelights. Service doors to the rear, single entries with similarly glazed doors, are sheltered by small open gables on brackets.

#### Environmental qualities

The Maple Mess is part of a complex of buildings immediately east of the base airfield, on a very gentle rise in grade. The complex comprises barracks, sport facilities and airfield structures somewhat isolated from the major development at the base.

The mess itself is accessible from paved circular drives at both front and rear, with well-tended lawns, shrubbery and mature coniferous and deciduous trees surrounding the building. The spacious and attractive landscaping of the complex permits the building to fit well with its neighbours. Its brick exterior contrasts with the stucco and horizontal siding of many of its neighbours, but the overall effect in its landscape is of a complementing variety of architectural form.

#### Character-Defining Elements

The heritage character of the former stables and hayloft building for the Maple Mess comprises the following character-defining elements:

- \* the building's unique plan, its symmetries, and its arrangement on its site
- \* the oversize brick cladding and multi-paned window treatments in their varying configurations
- \* the profiles of roof and chimneys, together with the surviving details of the main and rear entrances
- \* the building's pivotal location in an attractive, visible and historically functional setting

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All maintenance and repair work, as well as future interventions, should respect these character-defining elements.

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