

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT CROIL HALL (BUILDING A-142), CFB BORDEN

FHBRO number: **00-013**
DFRP number: **11022-01**
Resource name: **Croil Hall (Building A-142)**
Address: **Sector A, CFB Borden**
FHBRO status: **“Recognized” Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1951**
Designer: **Morani and Morris, Architects**
Original function: **Training center**
Current function: **Training center**
Modifications: **None significant**
Custodian: **Department of National Defence**

Reasons for designation

Croil Hall is a “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental value.

Historical value:

Built as a response to the increased need for large permanent training establishments required by technological advances and an increased work force, Croil Hall is associated with the post-World War II expansion of the Canadian Armed Forces during the Cold War. Among the earliest permanent facilities added during this period of growth, it also illustrates the third and most significant phase of the expansion of CFB Borden, Canada’s largest training base, and the period at which sector A became the base’s headquarters sector.

Architectural value:

Croil Hall’s sober, modern functionalist design, influenced by the International Style, is characterized by competent craftsmanship, and the use of good quality materials. Designed by the prominent architectural firm of Morani and Morris, it consists of a two-storey red brick building of impressive proportions and strong horizontal lines, and features four flat-roofed wings which form a central courtyard.

Environmental value:

Located on a large grassy lot, along a busy artery of the base, Croil Hall reinforces CFB Borden’s sector A as a training area through its function, large scale, and institutional character. The building’s prominence, as well as its function as a major training center, make it familiar to the base’s community.

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Character-Defining Elements:

The following character-defining elements of Croil Hall should be respected:

Its role as an illustration of the post-World War II expansion of the Canadian Armed Forces and the need for permanent training facilities as a response to technological advances and an increased work force, is reflected in:

- the use of a straightforward functionalist layout, presenting a wide range of interior spaces, efficiently serving its original purpose and proving adaptable over time.

The building's modern functionalist design, competent craftsmanship and quality materials, as manifested in:

- the emphasis on strong horizontal lines, expressed in the linear massing of the four flat-roofed wings, broken only by the vertical volume of a staircase block;
- the minimalist, abstract quality and horizontal expression of the facades, composed of long bands of regularly subdivided windows separated by brick and capped with sunshades in the upper half of the openings; and,
- the use of detailed brickwork to enhance certain features and entrances of the elevations.

The manner in which the building reinforces the character of sector A as a training area, as evidenced in:

- Croil Hall's location on an open grassy lot simply delimited by a sidewalk, and its open relationship to the adjoining road; and,
- the building's visual prominence, scale, institutional character, and presence on a major road.

For guidance on interventions, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*. For further information contact FHBRO.

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