

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT B7 BARRACKS, VIMY BARRACKS, CFB KINGSTON

FHBRO Number: **00-106**
DFRP Number: **09406**
Resource Name: **B7 Barracks**
Address: **Estafette Street, Vimy Barracks, CFB Kingston, Ontario**
FHBRO Status: **“Recognized” Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1957**
Designer: **Standard plan by the Design Division, Directorate of Works, DND**
Original Function: **250-man barracks**
Current Function: **Unchanged**
Modifications: **Addition of a sloped roof and gabled pediment (1988)**
Custodian: **Department of National Defence**

Reasons for Designation

B7 Barracks has been designated “Recognized” because of its historical associations, architectural qualities, and environmental significance.

Historical value:

Built in 1957, B7 Barracks represents the expansion of the Canadian Armed Forces during the Cold War. As a permanent and high quality accommodation, it was part of an effort to provide better living conditions for the military and constitutes a convenient example of the expansion and modernization of the Kingston military complex at that time.

Architectural value:

The B7 Barracks is a very good example of a post-war, standard plan military building. The large, two-storey, reinforced concrete building was developed by the Department of National Defence and combines elements of a modernist character and of a modern “stripped” Classicism. Built in accordance with a standard plan for a 250-man barracks and constructed of good quality materials and craftsmanship, the building’s E-shaped plan has proven to be a good functional design.

Environmental value:

B7 Barracks is set in a relatively unchanged open area and that faces onto the northern edge of Vimy Barracks. Due to the formality and prominence of its siting, and the similarity of its design with other buildings of the complex, B7 Barracks reinforces the formal and homogenous campus-like setting of Vimy Barracks. Its location and monumental scale also contribute to making it a familiar landmark within the community of the base.

FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDING REVIEW OFFICE
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Character Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of B7 Barracks should be respected:

Its role as an illustration of the 1950s expansion of the Canadian Military and as part of an effort to provide good living conditions for the military is reflected in:

- the use of an efficient, standard design and E-shaped plan, which provides natural lighting and ventilation throughout the building.

Its aesthetic design as manifested in:

- the building's monumental scale and simple, symmetrical massing;
- the prominent frontal entrance consisting of a portico with a strong vertical emphasis expressed in its streamlined columns and double-height windows; and,
- the contrasting horizontality of the lateral wings, expressed in the projecting blocks of windows recessed at the corners, the horizontal openings, the string courses above the first and second storey levels and the bands along the base of the windows.

The manner in which the building reinforces the formal and homogenous campus-like setting of Vimy Barracks, as evidenced in:

- its prominent location, between two open areas at the northern edge of the base and facing the road; and,
- the similarity of its scale and design with other buildings at Vimy Barracks namely, the almost identical B6 Barracks.

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

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