

**FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT
MCNAUGHTON BARRACKS #B-37 (SHERMAN HALL), CFB KINGSTON**

FHBRO number : **93-116**
DFRP number : **09406**
Resource name : **McNaughton Barracks, Building B-37 (Sherman Hall)**
Address : **CFB Kingston, Barriefield, Ontario**
FHBRO status : **"Recognized" Federal Heritage Building**
Construction : **1952; N. Sullivan & Son**
Designer : **Design Division, Directorate of Works, DND (Army) (no individual identified)**
Original function : **Barracks/personnel quarters**
Current function : **Barracks/personnel quarters**
Modifications : **Addition of pitched roof; minor window and interior adjustments**
Custodian : **Department of National Defence**

Reasons for Designation

Building B-37, McNaughton Barracks (Sherman Hall) is a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values:

Historical value :

Building B-37, McNaughton Barracks (Sherman Hall) is associated with the massive construction and modernization program undertaken by the Department of National Defence for all military services after the Second World War. The two primary themes for this association are: (1) the creation of a permanent peacetime army as a consequence of postwar foreign policy; and (2) the expansion and transformation of the military services to meet specific national commitments in the early years of the Cold War, beginning with mobilization for service in Korea and in western Europe, and later in the 1950s, as staging and training location for peacekeeping operations in Africa.

This barracks block, part of a quarters and mess complex, was an early component of the transformation of the former firing range at Camp Barriefield into the McNaughton Barracks portion of CFB Kingston. Unlike many major new military structures of the period that were designed by private architects, the building design was developed by DND staff as an exemplar of a new standard design for a 250-man barrack block or mess, with standards of accommodation improved over previous dormitory-hall arrangements. In its original operation, Sherman Hall shared food services with a second block building (B-39, Lewis Hall) at a 500-man mess (B-36, demolished).

Architectural value:

Sherman Hall is a two-storey concrete structure clad in white-painted stucco. The originally flat-roofed mass of the block remains evident beneath an added hipped, shingle-clad roof, whose broad eaves overhang the articulated corners of the main elevation. A flat pedimented gable to meet the main roof sits above the original central portico. The overall effect is a modernist hybrid of neo-classical formalism and Prairie-style accents.

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The principal south-facing elevation is a symmetrical composition, centered on a double-height, flat-topped portico of six classically-arrayed rectangular pillars between end walls atop a short flight of steps, the whole standing out from the front wall and above the original roof line, protecting a principal entrance recessed from the front wall. With the exception of correspondingly recessed southwest and southeast corners that provide formal counterpoints to the horizontal emphasis of the broad main frontage, the elevations on all faces comprise two storeys of horizontal window openings on continuous lintels, accented by continuous projecting horizontal box-profile mouldings that wrap around the building. The originally multi-paned windows for each barrack room comprised an A-B-A arrangement of a fixed central unit bracketed by two narrower double-hung sash windows, since replaced by single-pane units in a functionally similar configuration.

The building plan is an elongated U, punctuated by a single-storey, central pavilion on the court (north) side. The internal plan comprises double-loaded corridors with four-person rooms on both sides, and shared shower- and washrooms at the corners. The interiors are generally finished with varied terrazzo floors, acoustic-tile ceilings and painted plaster walls, and with built-in wood-veneered furnishings in the barrack rooms. The common room, located behind the main central staircase, opposite the main entrance, is a large high-ceilinged room with windows on three sides facing an open lawn. Its principal interior feature, a full-height fieldstone-clad fireplace block projects into the room from the south wall.

The building shares its architectural character with the adjacent Lewis Hall (B-39) and nearby surviving elements of the early period of McNaughton construction.

Environmental value :

Building B-37 is part of a large grouping at the western end of a relatively flat plain of mowed grass, laid out in a widely spaced grid plan of roadways, paved parking areas and building sites. The front elevation is aligned to terminate the axial vista from the southwestern McNaughton gate, and forms the north face of a broad parade square and helicopter landing zone, the principal formal, architecturally defined open space of the entire McNaughton Barracks plan. The building is at the same time an essential part of a less formal but functional ensemble to the north with the adjacent Lewis Hall (B-39) and the now demolished 500-man mess.

Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of Building B-37, McNaughton Barracks (Sherman Hall) should be respected :

Its role as an illustration of the expansion, modernization and diversification of the Canadian military in peacetime is reflected in:

- its exemplary role for new standards of military accommodation of its period;
- its high standard of robust, durable construction;
- the formal and functional relationship of building elevations to internal arrangements; and

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- its formally symmetrical orientation to its site, contributing to the definition of the axial configuration of the base plan and its principal open space.

Its combination of architectural modernism and functionalism in a durable and economical form as manifested in:

- the symmetrical plan and horizontally emphasized massing of the building;
- the symmetrical main (south) elevation, with its articulated corner accents and the emphasized and elaborated principal entrance, with the projecting portico and recessed entrance of classical derivation;
- the general horizontal emphasis on all elevations, reinforced by the wrap-around continuity of the belt courses; and
- the hybrid modernistic style, a distinctive combination of aspects of, both Prairie-style and neoclassicism.

The manner in which it reinforces the formally planned character of the setting as evidenced in :

- its freestanding siting;
- the formal symmetry of its location and orientation addressing the principal quadrangular open space of the McNaughton Barracks plan; and
- its relationship to a partially surviving functional building group.

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

October 2002