

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

FHBRO number: **97-25**
DFRP number: **14171**
Resource name: **Queen Building**
Address: **2800 Broad Street South, Regina, Saskatchewan**
FHBRO status: **"Recognized" Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1953**
Designer: **Department of National Defence staff**
Original function: **naval reserve training and administration**
Current function: **training and administration for naval reserve, two militia units and three cadet units**
Modifications: **new roof and windows; new addition for POL storage**
Custodian: **Department of National Defence**

Reasons for Designation

The Queen Building is a "Recognized" Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values:

Historical value:

The Queen Building is associated with the increase in spending by the Department of National Defence on permanent military infrastructure during the Cold War. This included the construction of permanent buildings for training and administration. The Queen Building is also associated with the history of the local naval reserve unit HMCS Queen, which was formed in Regina in 1923. The Queen Building was constructed as the first permanent training facility for HMCS Queen. The Queen Building is associated with the postwar phase of development in Regina. It was constructed on prime parkland at the heart of the city, as a concession by the provincial government to the importance of lake access for a naval training facility. As such, it illustrates the an appreciation of the importance of military training, at a provincial and local level, during the Cold War.

Architectural value:

The Queen Building is typical of large, institutional buildings of the 1 950s in its use of features borrowed from the International Style. In the two storey building, these elements include low, horizontal massing; asymmetrically placed entrance block; horizontal bands of windows; use of contrasting coloured panels; and general absence of decoration. Its largely functional design includes a centrally located drill hall, with office, storage, training and support space arranged around the perimeter of the building. Stairwells are arranged in four corners of the building adjacent to exits. The building is an in-house design of the Department of National Defence.

FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDING REVIEW OFFICE
National Historic Sites Directorate, Parks Canada
25 Eddy Street, 5th Floor, Hull, QC K1A 0M5
Telephone : 819-997-6740 / Fax: 819-953-6146/ Web Site : www.parkscanada.gc.ca/federalhb

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Environmental value:

The Queen Building reinforces the institutional character of the setting. Located in Wascana Centre, an urban beautification program initiated in the 1960s, a decade after the construction of the Queen Building. Major public buildings, including the Queen Building, are set within a park-like landscape bordering Wascana Lake. The site and setting of the Queen Building have changed little since this time. It is known to many residents because of its location and its function as a drill hall.

Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of the Queen Building should be respected:

Its role as an illustration of the increase in military spending during the Cold War is reflected in:

- its functional, permanent design and large size, appropriate to its role as a naval training facility.

Its role as an illustration of the local appreciation of the importance of naval training during the Cold War, is reflected in:

- its location on prime parkland in the heart of the Regina, adjacent to Wascana Lake.

Its use of features borrowed from the International Style, as manifested in:

- its low, horizontal massing and asymmetrically placed entrance block;
- the horizontal bands of windows, contrasting coloured panels, and relative absence of decoration;

Its functionally-appropriate interior layout, as manifested in:

- the centrally-located drill hall, with support space arranged around the perimeter of the building;
- the placement of stairwells at four corners of the building, adjacent to stairwells.

The manner in which it reinforces the institutional and parkland character of the setting as evidenced in :

- its long, low profile, surrounded by large expanses of grassed lawn and mature trees.

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

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QUEEN BUILDING, REGINA, SASKATCHEWAN

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