

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT BUILDING 86, 17 WING, CFB WINNIPEG

FHBRO number: **96-75**
DFRP number: **12579**
Resource name: **Building 86, Base Headquarters**
Address: **17 Wing, CFB Winnipeg North, Winnipeg, Manitoba**
FHBRO status: **“Recognized” Federal Heritage Building**
Construction: **1956**
Designer: **Department of National Defence**
Original function: **offices**
Current function: **base headquarters**
Modifications: **one-storey addition to the south end; windows replaced**
Custodian: **Department of National Defence**

Reasons for Designation

Building 86 is a “Recognized” Federal Heritage Building because of its historical associations, and its architectural and environmental values:

Historical value:

Building 86 is associated with the expansion of the Canadian military force during the Cold War and the accompanying construction program undertaken during the late 1940s and early 1950s to provide permanent, high-quality accommodation for this expanded force. Building 86 was one of many standard designs commissioned from Canadian architects under the supervision of the Department of National Defence. Building 86 is also associated with the development of RCAF Station Winnipeg (now CFB Winnipeg) after the Second World War. The base became the largest aircrew training centre in the RCAF during the 1950s, operating air observer and navigation schools at the Winnipeg airbase. Building 86 was part of the 1950s building program to provide training, administration and accommodation facilities for these schools.

Architectural value:

Building 86 is a good example of conservative modern style with elements borrowed from the International Style. The two storey building includes features such as low, horizontal massing; a flat roof, horizontal bands of windows; flat, projecting porticos; and overall absence of decoration. The composition is fairly conservative, with many elements arranged symmetrically. The building was designed by the Department of Defence.

Environmental value:

Building 86 reinforces the 1950s character of the setting and is located on a large, grassed, open site, bounded by access roads and a parking lot. It is situated at the eastern edge of the base, adjacent to the airfield, and is surrounded by buildings of similar age and style. It would be familiar to base residents because of its function as base headquarters.

FEDERAL HERITAGE BUILDING REVIEW OFFICE
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Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of Building 86 should be respected:

Its role as an illustration of the expansion of the Canadian military and the 1950s construction program is reflected in:

- its conformity to a standard design.

Its modern styling as manifested in:

- the low, horizontal massing; flat roof; horizontal bands of windows; flat, projecting porticos; and absence of decoration.

The manner in which it reinforces the 1950s character of the setting as evidenced in:

- its location on a large, open, grassed site, surrounded by curving access roads and buildings of similar age.

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

January 2003