

# SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR

[Please refer to the No. 33 EFTS (RAF) layout map]

## Station A

BCATP Cairn; Guardhouse  
(bldg. no. 20)

Enter Centre Street where it intersects First Avenue (behind the gas station). Notice the British Commonwealth Air Training Program (BCATP) flag and cairn to your right (east). The cairn was dedicated on 26 September 2001.

Proceed a few steps along Centre Street. House #402 occupies the site of the original guardhouse (bldg. no. 20). In addition to providing accommodations for the service police, this building housed six jail cells and the station post office. *After the war, bldg. no. 20 was relocated to Railroad Avenue in the hamlet of Caron where it still stands. It is referenced on the cemetery tour map included in your packet.*

## Station B

Pump House and Reservoir  
(bldg. nos. 26, 27)

Proceed a few steps along Centre Street. The small white building on the right (with the garage door) is the original pump house (bldg. no. 26). (It now serves as a maintenance building for the Village of Caronport.) The original pump house included pressurizing pumps and other equipment which conditioned the airbase's water system. A large earthen mound overlays the water reservoir (bldg. no. 27) behind the pump house. A 6" pipe brought water to the airbase; it extended 1.5 miles from the reservoir to the City of Moose Jaw's water line which ran along the CPR railroad tracks to the south.

## Station C

Firehall; 25-Yard Range  
(bldg. nos. 25, 19)

Proceed 50 meters along Centre Street until you come to two adjacent spruce trees on the right. The firehall (bldg. no. 25) once stood to the immediate south of these trees. It housed two fire trucks, an airbase-wide alarm system, a hose-drying room, and an open barracks. The 25-yard range (bldg. no. 19) stood some 25 meters behind the firehall. It featured an 8-meter-high concrete wall used as a backstop for machine gun, rifle, and side arm practice. Just to the south of the backstop was a shelter building open to the north from which ammo was directed at targets near the backstop. *The firehall would later serve as a residence, print*

*shop, art classroom, and village museum until it, and the 25-yard range, were demolished to accommodate the Hildebrand chapel complex.*

Station D  
HQ and Ground Instruction School  
(bldg. no. 1)

The headquarters/GIS (bldg. no. 1) sat directly across the street from the firehall. This 225' H-shaped building hosted the headquarters (operating in the wing closest to Centre Street) and a Ground Instruction School (in the back wing). At its peak, the GIS hosted 240 student pilots each day. *After the war, bldg. no. 1 was relocated to the grounds of Providence Hospital in Moose Jaw as part of its new nursing school. It was dismantled in 1970.*

Station E  
Motor Transport Compound  
(bldg. no. 17)

Proceed along Centre Street past house #412. On your left (west), note the concrete courtyard of the motor transport compound (bldg. no. 17). All motorized vehicles at No. 33 EFTS (RAF) were housed and maintained at this facility. Garage bay buildings were located on three sides of the quadrangle. The building on the east (running along Centre Str.) housed the office and repair garages. *The north and south garages were fashioned into a barn when Briercrest Bible Institute (BBI) purchased the airbase in 1946. The east building (a.k.a. "the chicken coop") served as staff and faculty housing for several decades after the war.*

Station F  
Works & Buildings Compound; Airmen's Mess Hall  
(bldg. nos. 15, 8)

Proceed along Centre Street past the slight bend in the road. You should see the outline of another hard-surface compound (bldg. no. 15) surrounded by a fourplex on the south and the Tech Centre Studios on the west. This compound supported the maintenance operations of the airbase. The airmen's mess hall (bldg. no. 8) stood immediately across Centre Street (in the parking lot of the modern-day post office). *The mess hall was used by BBI as its dining hall until it was replaced by the Alvin Memory Centre. In September 1981, it was moved to its current location on the eastern edge of the former Hangar No. 2.*

Station G  
Station Sick Quarters; Canteen  
(bldg. nos. 9, 10)

Proceed along Centre Street to just past its intersection with Second Avenue. The station sick quarters or hospital (bldg. no. 9) once stood on your left (west) in the area just north of the ditch. It sported an x-ray machine, laboratory, theatre, accident reception room, and glassed-in convalescence rooms. It could accommodate 25 patients. *After the war, the hospital went to Lucky Lake, SK, where it served as their medical facility.* Across the street, the canteen (bldg. no 10) supported the recreation services provided by the YMCA and, later, the Salvation Army. *After the war, bldg. no. 10 became St. Mary School in Moose Jaw.*

Station H  
Recreation Building; NCOs' Mess Hall  
(bldg. nos. 22, 5)

Proceed along Centre Street to the front of the recreation building, a.k.a. "The Landing" (bldg. no. 22). This building was the centre of after-hours life at Caron. It routinely hosted dances, movies, variety shows, and church services. *It is now used for special events and productions by Briercrest College's performing arts department.* Immediately across the street from the recreation hall stood the non-commissioned officers' (NCOs') mess hall (bldg. no. 5). This building hosted regular meals and social events. *It later served as a BBI classroom building and then, a dormitory. It was demolished in May 2005.*

Station I  
NCOs' Barracks; Officers' Mess Hall; and Officers' Quarters  
(bldg. nos. 4, 3, 2)

Proceed past Elm Crescent to the intersection of Birch and Centre Streets. The three buildings listed immediately above sat on what is now Birch Street. Building no. 4 served as the barracks for the NCOs. Building no. 3 served as the mess hall for the officers. And building no. 2 provided the residential accommodations for the officers. *Building no. 4 was sold by Briercrest in the early 1990s; building no. 3 was divided into portions that became the first elementary and high schools at Caronport. And building no. 2 was sold to Providence Hospital in Moose Jaw, immediately after the war.*

Station J  
One-Chair Dental Clinic  
(bldg. no. 21)

Reverse course and retrace your steps back to the intersection of Centre Str. and Second Ave. Proceed northeast on Second Ave. for about 20 meters. On your immediate right (south) is the former site of the one-chair dental clinic (bldg. no. 21). Its square manhole cover is still visible. It offered dental services to all personnel who worked at Caron. *After the war, it was sold to Frank Wilson of Caron who had recently lost his house in a fire.*

Station K  
Tech. & Quartermaster Stores; Workshop  
(bldg. nos. 13, 14)

Proceed northeast along Second Avenue. The quartermaster's stores were kept in bldg. no. 13 which sat on the site now occupied by Eliason Manor. The staff in this building controlled and dispersed supplies to the various units at the airbase. *After the war, it was converted to staff suites; it was demolished in November 1990.* Just ahead on the left, the workshop (bldg. no. 14) was used to make minor repairs to aircraft. It was also called the wing repair shop. Major repairs, including engine overhauls, were carried out elsewhere. *This building is still on site. It was moved back a few meters when it was placed on a concrete foundation.*

Station L  
Laundromat; Stores Building

Proceed along Second Ave. to the laundromat (on the left). This building has been renovated many times. It currently serves as a laundry and a message therapy centre (on the 2nd floor). It was originally part of the works and buildings compound (bldg. no. 15). It was moved to this site in 1957 after a fire destroyed buildings in the vicinity. Further to the northeast and beyond the machine shop stands the maintenance or stores building. This building is the former airmen's mess hall (bldg. no. 8). *It was moved to this site in September 1981.*

Station M  
Hangars No. 1 and 2  
(bldgs. H1, H2)

The laundromat and stores buildings are situated on the outer edges (lean-tos) of Hangar No. 2. The concrete expanse between them (225' x 110') is the original floor of this hangar. *Hangar No. 2 was dismantled by Prairie Vegetable Oils and moved to a site on Manitoba Street in Moose Jaw after the war.* Hangar No. 1 (to the south) was used by Briercrest until it was demolished in summer 2009. Throughout its long service, it provided residential suites around its perimeter, hosted an indoor ice rink and, for a time, a curling rink.

Station N  
Taxiway and Runway Systems

Proceed along Second Avenue past the former hangars and OK Tire. You should soon intersect Larch Street—the former taxiway. If you proceed further, passing Spruce Street and the cemetery, Second Avenue will terminate at a dirt road. You are now situated in the middle of the former runway system. (Please note the runway system map printed on the

reverse side of your layout map.) You may wish to turn left (north) on the dirt road and proceed about 300 meters to the curve sign. This sign is situated on the northern edge of the former east-west runway. (Caution: the dirt road is almost impassible when wet.)

Station O  
Parade Ground; Link Trainer Building  
(site no. 34; bldg. no. 12)

Return to the laundromat area along Second Avenue. Turn south and cross the concrete floor of Hangar No. 1. To your right (west) is a large, u-shaped dormitory (Whittaker Hall) which now sits on the site of the former parade ground where student pilots took their exercise and practiced marching. Proceed further south. About thirty meters in front (west) of Barkman Arena (on the southeast edge of the parking lot) is a spot formerly occupied by the Link trainer building. This facility contained four small flight simulators designed to test and improve aerial flying skills. *The Link trainer building was sold to Lucky Lake, SK, after the war, where it served as their Legion Hall.*

Station P  
Drill and Sports Hall  
(bldg. no. 11)

Proceed along the southern edge of the former parade ground (Whittaker Hall) which is also the northern edge of Reimer Memorial Gymnasium. The gym is the former drill & sports hall (bldg. no. 11) which was the centre of the intramural sports scene at Caron during the war. On inclement days, the activities slated for the parade ground were brought into this building. *Since the war, this facility has served continuously as a gymnasium and, until the construction of the Hildebrand Chapel, a large-event auditorium.*

Station Q  
Airmen's Barracks  
(bldg. nos. 6, 7)

Proceed past the gymnasium and Whittaker Hall. On your left (south) stood two large barracks blocks. Building no. 6 was known to generations of Briercrest students as the girls' dorm; building no. 7 as the boys' dorm. *The eastern half of bldg. no. 7 was demolished in 1974 to make room for Archibald Library. The remainder of these former barracks blocks were demolished on or before the mid-1990s.*

Continue to Centre Street and turn left (south) toward the cairn where the tour began (and now ends).