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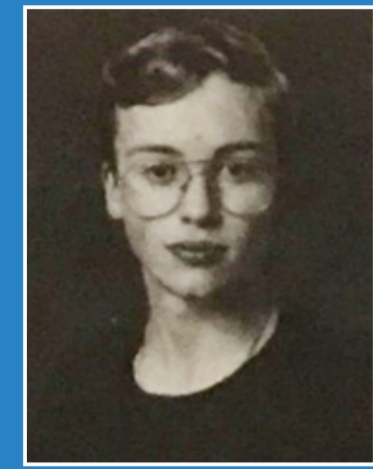
Building 457 and Parade Ground Area



Building 457 was built as a Sergeants' Mess for the RAF in 1925. It was not used until the RAF Upper Heyford was completed and opened in 1927. Due to the increasing threat from Nazi Germany the RAF expanded from 1935. In 1939 the RAF decided to convert Building 457 into sleeping quarters for 27 single Sergeants.

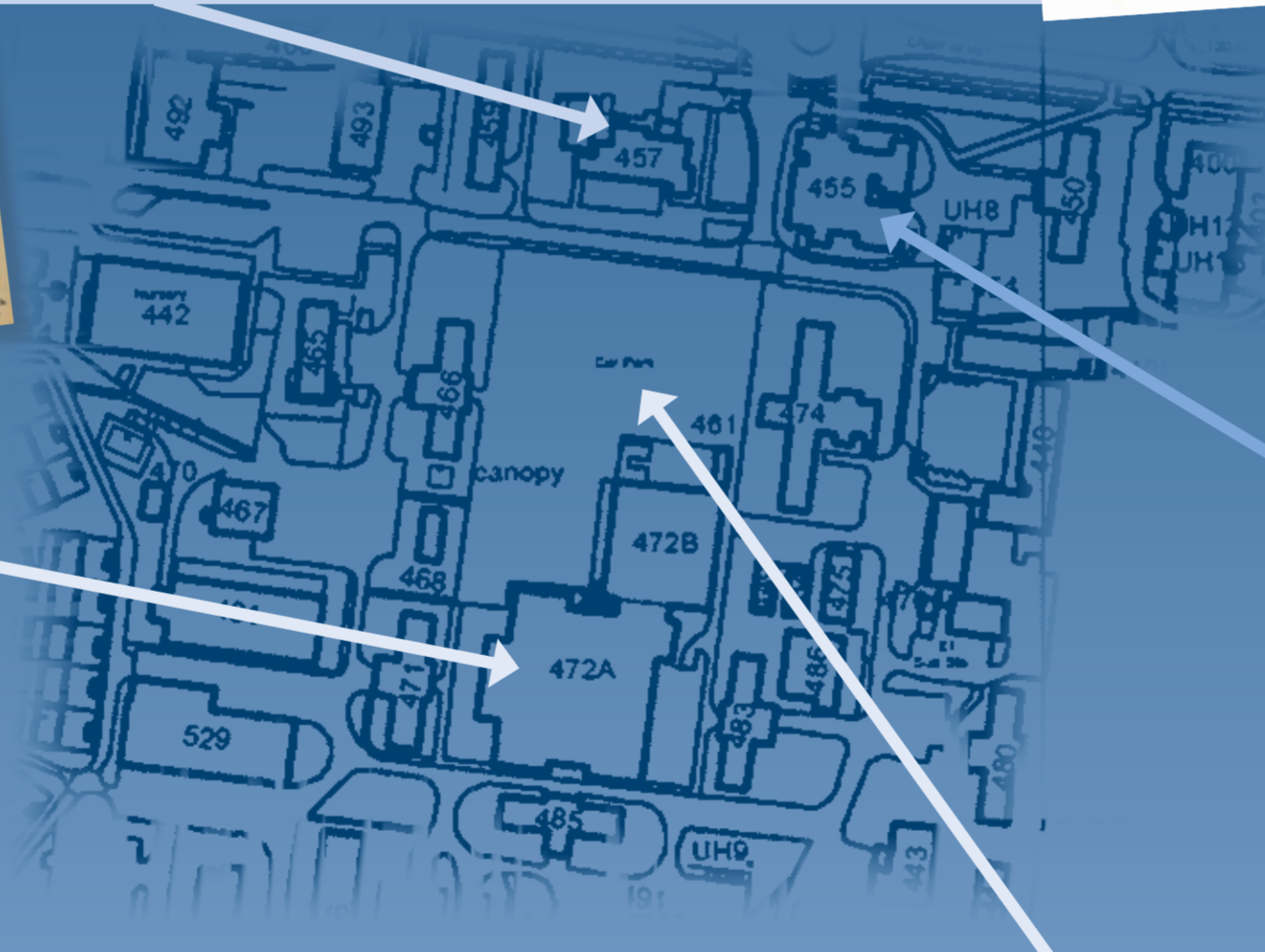


The Americans used Building 457 as a cafeteria. By 1980 Brown Derby had the pizza parlour franchise and Baskin-Robbins sold their famous 31 flavours of ice cream.



“My Dad Lenny worked for the Property Services Agency. Heyford did the best chocolate ice cream I've ever tasted.”

Larry Mobbs



BUILDING 455



The Americans used it as a PX (Post Exchange) for duty free shopping and later as offices.

This was built as an RAF Airmen's Institute with a games room and separate dining rooms for Corporals and Airmen. The RAF Sergeants' Mess was moved here from Building 457.

“We went to the Brown Derby so we could buy beer by the case and take it to the canal. You bought a pizza, hung around until there were no adults and paid \$40 'restocking fee'. This was the best way all of the military brats had to have a good time without risk of getting caught by the MPs (Military Police).”

Jonathan Gromatzky, Class of '93

NCO CLUB (BUILDING 472)



USAF NCO Club (for Non Commissioned Officers), Building 472, in 1980.



NCO club, 1950s.

“There was always a line up of local girls outside waiting to be signed in”

David Jennings, 20th Security Police Squadron



PARADE GROUND



RAF inspection on the Parade Ground in about 1948. Type C Barrack Block (Building 466) for 67 single men is in the background on the right and the chimneys are part of the boiler house (Building 467) which heated the barracks.



The former Parade Ground on 4 July 1982 during American Independence Day Celebrations. The Recreation Centre (Building 472B) is in the background. By 1982 this included a ballroom, games room, TV lounge and music room.