

FHBRO Number 93-76

Kentville, Nova Scotia

Main Barn (Building #5)

Kentville Research Station

The Main Barn, Building #5 at the Kentville Research Station, was constructed in 1912. It was designed by the Department of Agriculture and Immigration and is currently used for horticultural activities and storage. Agriculture Canada is the custodial department. See FHBRO Building Report 93-76.

Reasons for Designation

The Main Barn was designated Recognized because of its unique environmental qualities, its important historical associations and its architectural design.

The Main Barn is a well known landmark among the farming community of the Annapolis Valley. It is closely identified with the modernizing of agriculture in the region and with the history of the research station. Although its silos and cattle stalls have been removed, its character has been retained, reinforced by its size and by its setting at the top of a slope.

Canada's Experimental Farm system was begun in 1886 as a response to the country's expanding agricultural needs. Building #5, originally a dairy barn, is an example of early efforts by the federal government to promote and assist agriculture in Canada. The station is linked to the economic heart of the Annapolis Valley and has had a positive impact on the apple growing industry.

The Main Barn continues in active service, with its focus shifting from husbandry to horticulture. It is a good intact example of a bank barn in its proportions, fenestration, materials, framing and assembly. The sloped terrain at the site is ideally suited for this design, which is generally associated with Ontario. The setting is characterized by its association with the period during which the station was established, providing a context to past research activities and its identification as an agricultural landmark.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage value of the Main Barn resides in its significant aesthetic of agricultural building forms and massing, in its materials of construction and in its site and setting.

The Main Barn exhibits the typical vertical orientation of the bank barn design, with a gabled roof and two shed-roofed additions, one on each of the long facades. The form and massing are integral to the design.

FHBRO Number 93-76

Kentville, Nova Scotia

Main Barn (Building #5)

Kentville Research Station

The exterior of the timber frame building and shed additions is characterized by the narrow-gauge red-painted clapboard, contrasting white-painted trim, metal roofing, and small windows with six-over-six wood sash. The immaculate exterior is in keeping with the scientific nature of the station and should be continued with good conservation maintenance practices.

The concrete foundation functioned well when cows were accommodated here. In the 1960s, however, the silos, cattle stalls and ventilators were removed. Introduced were storage shelves, two root cellars and a refrigerated area, as part of the shift from husbandry to horticulture. The replacement of missing ventilators, and any new functional activities which would contribute to the continuation of the life of the barn while conserving the historic fabric, are encouraged.

The Main Barn is built into the sloping uneven topography of the farm setting. The dramatic view of the Main Barn at the top of the slope contributes to its status as a regional landmark. The setting, views and circulation patterns reinforce the agricultural character and therefore merit protection.

1998.02.19

For further guidance, please refer to the *FHBRO Code of Practice*.
