

FHBRO HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT
CATTLE BARN (BUILDING No. 14), INDIAN HEAD RESEARCH FARM
SASKATCHEWAN

FHBRO Number:	06-128	FINAL
DFRP Number:	13744	
Resource Name:	Cattle Barn (Building No. 14)	
Address:	Indian Head Agricultural Research Farm	
FHBRO Status:	Recognized Federal Heritage Building	
Construction:	1912 - 1914	
Designer:	W.T. Mollard, Department of Public Works	
Original Function:	Barn	
Current Function:	Storage	
Modifications:	Modifications to some openings	
Custodian:	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	

Description of historic place

The Cattle Barn (Building No. 14) is a large, rectangular, wood-framed barn, minimally attached to a Stable (Building 15) of similar design in an 'L'-shaped configuration. Representative of commercial barns of the era it has a concrete foundation, a bellcast gambrel roof, a large access door, board and batten siding, and rectangular windows. It is white painted with contrasting trim. The designation is confined to the footprint of the building.

Heritage value

The Cattle Barn (Building No. 14) is a Recognized Federal Heritage Building due to its historical, architectural and environmental value.

Historical value

The Cattle Barn (Building No. 14) is a very good example to illustrate the theme of agricultural research conducted by the federal government to promote and improve agriculture via a network of Canadian experimental farms. Integral to the Indian Head Research Farm, one of the five original experimental farms in the network, the building illustrates the importance of early 20th century livestock research. Constructed 1912-1914, the Cattle Barn is a very good illustration of the development and prosperity of the region during a time of rapid growth in agricultural research. It marks a phase of significant intensification in the breeding program at the Farm. Built to replace the barn destroyed by fire in 1912, the new building incorporated functional improvements and was visually prominent to emphasize the importance of livestock breeding to the local farming community.

Architectural value

Larger in scale than most commercial barns of the time, the Cattle Barn (Building No. 14) is a good representative example of a barn built in the 1910s. Features include a bellcast gambrel roof, board and batten siding, and a concrete floor and foundation. Minimally connected to the Stable (Building 15) to form an "L", the barns are similar in rectangular plan and form. The Cattle Barn features horizontal massing, rectangular windows that are larger at the lower levels, round windows, ventilator cupolas and contrasting trim. Representative of period local barns it has good functional qualities with livestock below, hay and storage above, good day lighting and efficient ventilation. Functional design points include extra storage space in the gambrel roof, standard stall and aisle layout for ease of movement, large windows at lower animal levels to increase daylight; and a Rutherford ventilation system with fresh air intake through the foundation walls and exhaust shafts from the loft floors through the roof. Used now for storage, the barn has seen few changes and has adapted to changing requirements. The Cattle Barn displays very good quality craftsmanship and materials. Used for its intended function, housing livestock, until the 1960s, it had little maintenance since but remains in good condition. The Cattle Barn was designed by W.T. Mollard, Department of Public Works Saskatchewan and Alberta.

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Environmental value

Surrounding silos and sheds have been replaced and removed and the farm entrance location changed due to evolving functions. Despite these changes the character of the historical relationship between the Cattle Barn and its associated environment is retained. The two barns continue to dominate the site. Located at the centre of the experimental farm, the Cattle Barn is in line with the main entrance. Situated within a complex of buildings set in a large expanse of open fields, the prominence, scale, design and function of the Cattle Barn reinforces the character of its rural farm setting. Popular with visitors, often photographed and painted, the Cattle Barn has been depicted in two books on barns in western Canada and featured in the film "The Englishman's Boy". The local Heritage Resources Branch of the Department of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sports recognizes the building as known in the region as being amongst the largest of its kind in the province.

Character-Defining Elements

The following character-defining elements of the Cattle Barn (Building No.14) which must be respected include:

- its early 20th century style representative of the type of barn built at Canadian experimental farms in the 1910s;
- the large rectangular massing with horizontal emphasis, the frame construction with board and batten siding, set on an exposed, raised concrete foundation visible from the outside with windows on all sides and doors on its north, west and east sides, and the gambrel roof with a slight bellcast and metal cladding, and the remaining three cupolas for ventilation;
- the original placement, design and materials of doors and windows of different sizes; including the large double-door entrance on the east elevation, and the entrances on the north and west elevations, and the simple, exterior's paint scheme of white with dark trim, and the Rutherford ventilation system;
- the interior's simple, functional layout, designed to accommodate cattle;
- the building's contribution to the composition of the Indian Head Research Farm and its visual and physical relationship to the Stable (Building No.15).
- the location on the Indian Head Research Farm, in the central portion, directly across from the main (west) farm entrance.

For guidance on interventions proposed for this building, please refer to the *Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada*. For more information, contact FHBRO