

FHBRO Number 92-017

Longview, Alberta

Coal Shed (Building 23)**FINAL**

Bar U Ranch

The Coal Shed, Building 23, is associated with Foreman Pearson's House. Although the exact construction date is unknown, it is believed to have been built in the 1920s, within the residential area of the ranch, and moved to its present location prior to 1940. It is a component of the Bar U National Historic Site. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 92-17.

Reasons For Designation

The Coal Shed, as a component of the Bar U Ranch complex, was designated "Classified" because of the historical associations of this building and the ranch as a whole, because of the exceptional qualities of the site and setting, and because of its contribution to the overall aesthetic qualities of the complex.

The Bar U Ranch is strongly associated with the development of ranching in Alberta. As part of the Bar U, and as an ancillary building associated with Foreman Pearson's House, the Coal Shed played a supporting role in this development. The structure is also associated with George Lane, a prominent Alberta cattleman, who was hired at the Bar U in 1884 to serve as the ranch foreman and who ran the Ranch between 1902 and 1925. Finally, the Coal Shed is associated with Patrick Burns, who purchased the Bar U Ranch in 1927 to add to his vast cattle empire. Burns, who is recognized as the kingpin of the meat processing industry in western Canada during the mid-1920s, has been designated a person of national significance.

As part of a cohesive complex of buildings arranged to great functional effect in a simple and beautiful natural setting, the Coal Shed contributes to the character of the Bar U Ranch. The structure sits behind Foreman Pearson's House along with the Vehicle Garage and Privy, within the management and residential area. These subsidiary buildings visually reinforce the function and importance of Foreman Pearson's House within the ranch.

The Coal Shed is the product of a simple, function-oriented design. It contributes to the ranch's utilitarian character and blends well with the other buildings on the site.

Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Coal Shed resides in the utilitarian nature of its form and massing, materials, windows and doors, exterior finish and setting.

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The Coal Shed's simple form and massing reflect its utilitarian function. The Coal Shed is constructed with stud walls and clad with bevelled siding, a construction system employed for many of the ranch's buildings from 1906 onward. It also bears an outer layer of asphalt shingles in badly deteriorating condition. Its gabled roof is covered with milled cedar shingles. The Coal Shed's layout is typical of a generic storage shed, with its single entrance placed at one end of the south-facing side wall. Its colour scheme (barn red walls and white trim) keeps with tradition across the Prairies and visually links it to the other buildings on site. A gable-roofed privy stands adjacent to the west-facing gable end of the Coal Shed. Any repairs to the building should follow precedent for materials, levels of craftsmanship, fasteners and tool marks.

Any developments should seek to retain the functional quality of the site and respect existing patterns of access and circulation. Any changes to circulation or access should consider historic patterns related to the movement of pedestrians and motorized vehicles. The relationship of the Coal Shed to the Vehicle Garage and Privy, to Foreman Pearson's House and to other buildings on the site should be maintained.

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

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