

Longview, Alberta

Dairy Barn (Building 25)

FINAL

Bar U Ranch

The Dairy Barn at the Bar U Ranch is believed to have been built during the period of George Lane's ownership, between 1902 and 1925. Additional columns were added to the structure to address a problem with roof deflection. In recent years, the construction of a large modern piggery and a network of corrals northwest of the Dairy Barn has changed the setting. The building is now used as a piggery. The Dairy Barn is a component of the Bar U Ranch National Historic Site. Parks Canada is the custodian. See FHBRO Building Report 92-17.

Reasons For Designation

The Dairy Barn, 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 its functional design and contribution to the overall aesthetic qualities of the complex, and because of the exceptional qualities of the site and setting.

The Bar U Ranch is strongly associated with the development of ranching in Alberta. As part of the Bar U complex, the Barn is associated with numerous people and events that contributed to the development of ranching in Alberta. The structure's probable construction date, function and scale correspond with a modest commercial dairy operation. Dairy cows remained at the ranch during Patrick Burns' ownership, between 1927 and 1949, indicating that the Dairy Barn was a functioning operation during much of the ranch's middle years.

The Dairy Barn is an important building on the site. It is the product of a simple, function-oriented design and yet has a strong aesthetic impact due to its scale, massing and patina. Like other buildings at the Bar U built during the early part of the 20th century, the Dairy Barn reflects the gradual shift from log building tradition and native material use, to a reliance on external sources for form, structural design and building materials.

As part of a cohesive complex of buildings arranged to great functional effect in a simple and beautiful natural setting, the Dairy Barn contributes significantly to the character of the Bar U Ranch. The building is located within the working area of the complex, in close proximity to the bunkhouses on the south side of the bridge, and on the perimeter of grazing land lying to the north. It is also a component of the collection of pre-1927 buildings which contribute to the landmark value of the complex as one of the region's most important early ranch sites. This landmark value is reinforced by the designation of the complex as a National Historic Site.

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Character Defining Elements

The heritage character of the Dairy Barn resides in its form, massing, doors, windows, exterior finish, roof shape and materials, construction materials and techniques, interior plan and layout, and setting.

The Dairy Barn's simple form, footprint and massing reflect its utilitarian function. The high side walls accommodate a large loft area at the interior. The wood doors, wood sash windows and other openings, as well as the cupola-style ventilator on the ridge are practical, functional features that support the dairy operation. All of these features contribute to the building's heritage character and to an understanding of its functional program, and should be respected in any future modifications or maintenance work.

Resting on a poured concrete foundation, the structure is built of light balloon frame construction using commercially milled lumber. Exterior walls are sheathed with shiplap. The medium-pitch gabled roof is clad with milled cedar shingles. The colour scheme (barn red walls and white trim) keeps with tradition across the Prairies and visually links the Dairy Barn to the other buildings on site.

The building's interior presents a characteristic barn layout, with a centre hall flanked on both sides by open cattle stalls. The interior plan, layout and features are integral to an understanding of the buildings function, and merit preservation.

The Dairy Barn's open setting and its proximity to Pekisko Creek and to the bridge were deliberate choices based on the original function of the building. The open access and circulation from the barn to the bridge should be protected.

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

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