

## HERITAGE CHARACTER STATEMENT

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FHBRO Number 95-30

DFRP Number 08625

### **Recognized Federal Heritage Building**

OTTAWA, Ontario

### **Swine Showcase, Building #91**

Central Experimental Farm

Building #91 is a T-shaped building comprising three parts. The north section of the north-south wing was constructed in 1911 as the Main Piggery for the Central Experimental Farm (CEF). It replaced an earlier piggery (1891-1910) on the same site. The east wing and the south section of the north-south wing were added in 1934-5. CEF staff were likely responsible for the design of the 1911 section. The plans for the 1934-5 extensions were drawn up by staff in the CEF Draughting Room in co-operation with the Dominion Animal Husbandman. The interior of the building, some exterior portions, and the surrounding landscaping were altered in 1982-4 and again in 1995. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAF) is the custodian. The building is presently part of the Agriculture Museum operated by the National Museum of Science and Technology Corporation. The structure is a Level 1 cultural resource located within the Central Experimental Farm National Historic Site.

### **Reasons for Designation**

Building #91 has been designated “Recognized” because of its historical, architectural, and environmental significance:

#### **Historical Significance**

Building #91 illustrates the dual role of the Experimental Farm Service in undertaking agricultural research and in promoting sound farming practices across Canada through the construction and operation of model farm buildings. Building #91 is intimately connected with the work of the Division of Animal Husbandry and its predecessor in carrying out swine experiments and in providing models for their optimum care and housing. Increasing emphasis on the importance of a healthy, sanitary environment for pigs led the Division to make recommendations concerning types of construction, layout and ventilation and to embody these in its own swine housing. Building #91 was constructed during the second phase of development of the CEF (1911-19), a period characterized by rapid expansion, reorganization and intense construction. It was expanded during the third phase of development at the CEF (1920-36), when increasing attention to precision in experimentation played an important part in the determination of building specifications.

#### **Architectural Significance**

In its exterior cladding, window treatment and wood trim, Building #91 conforms to the modified Shingle style utilized for early service buildings at the CEF. In the massing of its long elevations, however, it is dominated by a utilitarian medium-pitched roof and low eave line that cover both axis of the building. The building’s construction and appearance closely follow requirements promoted by the Division of Animal Husbandry for animal housing, namely, to ensure warmth, dryness, sanitation, sunlight and ventilation of both animals and feed through solid construction techniques and materials, large windows, passive ventilation systems, a slightly raised ground floor, and purpose-designed interior fittings. Farm staff contributed to the design of the both sections, thereby ensuring that practical concerns were integrated into the design.

### Environmental Significance

The building site has been altered by changes in the size and configuration of the building itself, and by changes in the surrounding landscape. Pig-runs, hog sheds and unsurfaced barnyards are now paved roads, surfaced yards and grassed lawns. The original landscape has been further altered by the disappearance of adjacent buildings, the construction of newer buildings, and the alteration of the landscape from a working farm to a museum park. Its role as part of a museum has given Building #91 more visibility to a broader group of people, especially among those who visit the museum.

### Character-defining Elements

The heritage character of Building #91 resides in the following character-defining elements:

- Its board and batten siding, multiple-paned windows, shingled roof, large dormers, and roof ventilators.
- The low medium-pitched gable roof carried across the entire building, punctuated by dormers with access doors to the attic storey.
- The functional requirements for a healthy and sanitary piggery promoted by the Division of Animal Husbandry, as embodied in its solid construction, concrete foundation, many large windows and natural ventilation system, including air ducts in the hayloft and ventilators on the roof.
- Extant features which speak to its original function as a working piggery, including the location of small doors leading from individual interior pens to exterior pig runs, the hayloft doors in the gable ends and dormers, and the interior space allotted to the hayloft.
- The original farm landscaping and the relationship of the piggery to other farm buildings, including the Little Piggery (Building #91A) and the Main Barn (Building #88).

All maintenance and repair work, as well as future interventions, should respect these character-defining elements.

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